

Florida Medical Directors Association's Annual Conference Supported by National Groups

By Ian Cordes, MBA, NHA; Executive Director

Florida Medical Directors Association (FMDA) is proud to announce that plans for its 18th Annual Meeting, Oct. 30-Nov. 1, 2009, titled "Best Care Practices in the Geriatrics Continuum 2009," are under way. The educational program is designed to provide a review and update of major geriatric diseases, illnesses, and risks found in nursing home patients, residents of assisted living facilities, and seniors living at home. Topics include the clinical relevance of advanced wound healing techniques; a lecture on dementias; depression and mood disorders in the elderly with a focus on assessment and treatments; annual update with National Leadership Council featuring American Medical Directors Association (AMDA) President David Brechtelsbauer, MD, CMD; American Society of Consultant Pharmacists (ASCP) President Judith L. Beizer, College of Pharmacy & Allied Healthcare Professionals, St. John's University, Jamaica, NY; and Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association (GAPNA) President Patricia Kappas-Larson, MPH, APN-C, FAAN; AHCA nursing home regulatory update; chronic pain management overview; separate sessions that include the latest treatments for diabetes, movement disorders, geriatric ophthalmology; and a look at the state of improving nursing home care by reducing potentially avoidable hospitalizations.

Best Care Practices is the annual conference which is jointly-sponsored by the Florida Medical Directors Association and the American Medical Directors Association in conjunction with the Florida Chapter of the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists, and in collaboration with the American College of Health Care Administrators, American Association for Long Term Care Nursing, and the Florida Geriatrics Society.

Target Audience

This conference is designed to educate physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, directors of nursing in LTC, registered nurses, senior care pharmacists, consultant pharmacists, and long-term care administrators, as well as geriatricians, primary care and home care physicians, physicians considering becoming long-term care or home care medical directors, and others with an interest in geriatrics and its continuum of care. The faculty includes national and regional authorities in the fields of medical direction, senior care pharmacology, as well as long-term care and geriatric medicine.

Pre-Conference Programming

The conference starts on Thursday, Oct. 29, 2009 with two pre-conference tracks: Firstly, the American Medical Directors Association will be hosting a daylong "Clinical Practice Guidelines Train the Trainer Implementation Workshop" focusing on pain management and its related F-tag. Secondly, all three Florida Mandatory Licensure Renewal Courses will be offered.

Cutting Edge Lectures and Scientific Poster Presentations

Other unique features about this year's conference include a Medicare Billing Workshop with AMDA Past-President Dr. Dennis Stone and FMDA hosting its sixth annual scientific poster.

Poster sessions provide an opportunity for practicing physicians, pharmacists, and nurse practitioners to share with colleagues the results of research, best practices, and outcomes. The sessions are visual presentations using diagrams, charts, and figures. Poster presentations may be on any aspect of the following categories and all poster abstract proposals must be submitted online via our website at www.fmda.org. All submissions that are complete and follow the Criteria for Acceptance of Posters will be considered and reviewed based on the content contained within the proposal.

The first 10 applicants who are accepted by the review committee will receive complimentary registration to the 2009 conference (only one applicant per poster presentation will be considered). To learn more, or to submit a proposal, go to www.fmda.org.

Newest Affiliated Organization

The American Association for Long Term Care Nursing (AALTCN) is the newest organization to join the Best Care Practices conference collaboration that includes FMDA, AMDA, FL-ASCP, ACHCA, and FGS.

AALTCN is a national association that unites all levels of nursing staff to advance excellence in the specialty of long-term care nursing. The association encourages respect for long-term care nursing staff by informing colleagues and consumers about the complexities, competencies, and commitment of the special caregivers who commit to this specialty.

“We are very pleased that the American Association for Long Term Care Nursing has decided to join us in our efforts to educate long-term care nurses alongside physicians, pharmacists, nurse practitioners, and administrators all along the continuum of long-term care,” said FMDA President Dr. John Potomski. “Our annual meeting has earned a national reputation for offering quality educational programs with some of the most dynamic national speakers available.”

Each of the collaborating organizations is committed to ensuring that their members have access to the latest information, opportunities for educational advancement, and the framework to advocate the positions that will benefit their members and patients/residents. This annual educational program has evolved into a national gathering for physicians, nurse practitioners, senior care pharmacists, directors of nursing, nurses, and administrators, all working in long-term care, assisted living, home care, and in academia. It provides a unique opportunity to network and enjoy educational seminars from the top experts in their fields.

To learn more about educational programming for the Best Care Practices conference, or submit a poster presentation, or learn about membership in FMDA, go to www.fmda.org, or call Ian Cordes, FMDA executive director, at (561) 659-5581. More specific information concerning the Best Care Practices conference is available at www.bestcarepractices.org.