

# MiMDA Reports

NEWSLETTER OF THE MICHIGAN MEDICAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

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## President's Message

### Dear Colleagues in Long Term Care:



Mark Jackson, MD, CMD

I hope that many of you were able to enjoy the AMDA Conference in San Antonio. I always return from that conference with practical knowledge, enthusiasm, and joy for what we do, as well as renewal of friendships and lots of ideas. We will be continuing that same educational theme in Traverse City on October 5 and 6. This year, we have offered curriculum and dinner on Friday evening for those that are coming early, an awesome agenda on Saturday, and some home-grown entertainment, the Happy Tappers, our Senior Center tap dance group, and Dr. David Martin's Celtic Band, Banshee. You will not want to miss it.

Thank you to those who completed our Member Survey. I have sent out notes to those that replied with their email address. Many others replied that they would like to participate more with MiMDA, but we were not able to retrieve their contact information. Please contact me or Jan Yonker, our Executive Director, if you are willing to contribute to our Membership, Website, Bylaws, Education or Funding and Support Committees. We are also looking for help with our newsletter.

In October, we will vote on Board Members. Jack Voytas, Marjorie

Renfrow and Bruce Johnson will be completing their terms. Bruce has offered to be nominated again. If you are willing to contribute at the Board level, or know of a member who is interested in contributing, please contact Jan or myself. We have face-to-face Board Meetings at the October MiMDA meeting and at the Annual AMDA Symposium, and occasional conference calls. Of course, we would hope that a new board member would participate in committee activities. Please consider this opportunity to help make MiMDA a recognized leader in long term care in Michigan.

As you may recall, we have developed a dialogue with Howard Schaefer and Roxanne Perry, Directors of Surveys in Michigan. They will be presenting at our October Conference. In the meantime, they are willing to field questions from our members. If you have a question for our surveyors that would be of interest to our membership, let me know and I will forward it to Mr. Schaefer and Ms. Perry, and report back in the next President's Letter.

CME is getting expensive! What can we do? Our annual conference is a break even proposition in good years. Excellent speakers need to be rewarded, and travel expenses covered. As in previous years, we are hoping to help with costs by soliciting vendors and sponsors. Please encourage your organizations such as long term care chains, pharma-

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	1
MIMDA ANNUAL MEETING 2012	2
PRESCRIBING NEWS & POLST UPDATE	3
Q & A: MEDICAL MARIJUANA	4
MIMDA BOARD AND MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION	5

cies, home care, hospice agencies, and others to support our conference through Gold, Silver or Bronze Sponsorships. The Board is working hard but can use your help to broaden our base of support. Please share this information with potential sponsors.

Speaking of a broad base of support, MiMDA recognizes the wide range of professionals in our long term care facilities, and offers appropriate membership for non-physician providers (NPP's in CMS language). I would also strongly encourage you and your facilities to promote and financially support the participation of nurse practitioners, physician assistants, DONs, and leadership nurses in MiMDA and our annual conference. By way of reference, 13 nurses from the Traverse City area attended our conference last year, and found it to be a great educational experience, as well as a morale booster. They felt that their employer was investing in them!

See page 2 for more information on the annual conference.

Sincerely,  
Mark Jackson, MD, CMD  
President, MiMDA  
[majdeerhunter@gmail.com](mailto:majdeerhunter@gmail.com)

# Updates on our Annual Meeting – Plan to Attend!



## Sixteenth Annual Scientific Meeting of the Michigan Medical Directors Association

**October 5-6, 2012**

**Park Place Hotel  
300 East State Street  
Traverse City, MI 49684**

**We've made a few changes in the program this year:**

### Planned presentations:

- TRANSITIONING TO FULL TIME NURSING HOME PRACTICE
- DEMENTIA WITHOUT DRUGS
- QUALITY ASSESSMENT AND PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT (QAPI)
- INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY IN THE SENIOR SERVICE WORLD
- MEDICAL DIRECTOR QI ISSUES IN FALLS MANAGEMENT
- A CHAT WITH OUR STATE SURVEYORS
- ISOLATION ISSUES IN LTC
- PARKINSON'S DISEASE

**Friday evening** in the Top of the Park from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. we are planning dinner with two hours of a continuing education program. Attendance will be by pre-registration only and will include a fee for education credits and dinner. For a nominal additional fee, you may bring a guest to the dinner. At 8:00, we'll open the doors to all for a reception and entertainment provided by a local Celtic band. Join your friends and colleagues for dessert, libations and great music!

**Saturday's program** will run approximately 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. See the planned program on the left. This year preceding lunch we welcome Traverse City's "Happy Tappers" to delight you with their talents! (photo below)

**TARGET AUDIENCE:** This annual conference strives to engage physicians, physician assistants, advance practice nurses, registered nurses, nursing home administrators, and other long term care health care professionals in an educational activity that will enhance quality of care and quality of life for Michigan's nursing facility residents. This is also a great opportunity to network with your colleagues from around the state and to participate in MiMDA governance.

**SPONSORSHIP:** Your organization can show its support for this valuable educational event through co-sponsorship. Three levels are available: Gold (\$2500), Silver (\$1500) and Bronze (\$500). Write [michiganmda@gmail.com](mailto:michiganmda@gmail.com) for more information.

**EXHIBITORS:** To reserve your space now, send an email to [michiganmda@gmail.com](mailto:michiganmda@gmail.com) or call 1-517-432-5159 .

*This conference is co-sponsored by the Geriatric Education Center of Michigan at Michigan State University.*



*Above:  
The Happy Tappers*

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** This time of year is often "peak color season," so we encourage you to call the Park Place Hotel as soon as possible to make your reservation for that weekend. Call 1-231-946-5000 to reserve a room and request the MiMDA special rate of \$159.95 per night plus taxes. To explore other activities in the area, visit <http://www.traversecity.com>.

## Prescribing news provided by Mark Jackson, MD, CMD

CMS Webcast on Antipsychotics: On March 29, 2012, CMS broadcast a webcast on "Initiative to Improve Behavioral Health and Reduce the Use of Antipsychotic Medications in Nursing Home Residents" that was "Strongly Recommended" for all Surveyors. CMS is developing a national action plan to improve behavioral health management and to safeguard nursing home residents from unnecessary antipsychotic drug use. This is what our surveyors will be looking for in our antipsychotic medication reduction programs. Many of the leadership nurses and social workers in my facilities have reviewed the webcast and found it helpful. It helps me galvanize support for gradual dosage reductions. The webcast can be found at:

<http://surveyortraining.cms.hhs.gov/pubs/Videoinformation.aspx>. Share this with your staff.



**BEERS Criteria** In March, the American Geriatrics Society published the 2012 Beers Criteria of Potentially Inappropriate Medication (PIM) Use in Older Adults. This is the 3rd update to the original 1991 Beers Criteria. These guidelines are available to surveyors and our consultant pharmacists. New additions to the PIM list include Megace, glyburide, and all sliding scale insulin. New additions to the list of PIM in older adults with certain conditions and syndromes are thiazolidinediones in heart failure, acetylcholinesterase inhibitors in syncope, and SSRIs with fall and fractures. We should all be familiar with these guidelines, which can be found for free at: [http://www.americangeriatrics.org/health\\_care\\_professionals/clinical\\_practice/clinical\\_guidelines\\_recommendations/2012](http://www.americangeriatrics.org/health_care_professionals/clinical_practice/clinical_guidelines_recommendations/2012)

## POLST Update provided by Iris Boettcher, MD, CMD

POLST (Physician Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment) has been implemented and successfully recognized in several Michigan communities, and there has been an effort for recognition and acceptance statewide by all healthcare environments. The statewide effort has recently reorganized under a group addressing not just POLST but an array of issues as it relates to Advance Care Planning (ACP) and End of Life (EoL). This group is now called Michigan Coalition for Honoring Healthcare Choices.

The Coalition has adapted POST (Physician Orders for Scope of Treatment) instead of POLST. So going forward in Michigan you may hear of POST and POLST, which are synonymous. The Coalition is currently working with the Michigan Dept of Community Health (DCH) and its subdivision of Medical Control Authority (MCA) which regulates First Responders. MCA is concerned about the liability of their responders as it relates to life sustaining orders. They are not concerned about the DNR order that is part of POST, but the additional orders to be followed.

In an effort to resolve this issue, DCH and MCA has granted current communities using POLST the designation of "pilot sites" to test the effectiveness of POLST in these communities. The Coalition is working with DCH and MCA on training and data collection tools. In addition, ongoing discussions are occurring to attempt to resolve the concern as DCH and MCA are in favor of statewide use of such a document. The Coalition has received permission to set-up other pilot communities with similar data collection and training, but is using the POST document which is slightly different from POLST document currently in use. The number of additional pilot sites has been limited by DCH. Those sites will be finalized within the next several months.

We will update you as the details unfold. What you can do now is support this initiative if your communities are currently pilot sites, support additional pilot sites, send a letter of support for this initiative to Carolyn Stramecki, MHSA, CPHQ, Quality Improvement Coordinator, Care Transitions, MPRO. Email: [cstramec@mpro.org](mailto:cstramec@mpro.org). If you have questions, ideas, thoughts please contact us at [michiganmda@gmail.com](mailto:michiganmda@gmail.com).

## Q & A: Medical Marijuana in the Nursing Facility

**This month's question was posed by Dr. Mark Jackson, MiMDA President, to Ms. Roxanne Perry, Director, Division of Operations, Bureau of Health Systems, Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, and Mr. Howard Schaefer, Director of Division of Nursing Home Monitors.**

### QUESTION:

The Michigan Medical Directors Association is attempting to offer some guidelines to our members on the issue of medical marijuana in our skilled nursing facilities. We would appreciate your guidance as to how the survey teams will approach the issue, so that we may develop appropriate policy in our facilities. Do you feel that it would be a resident right, since it has been prescribed by a physician? Will there be special guidelines for storage, purchase, distribution to the resident, special smoking areas? We look forward to your recommendations.



### RESPONSE:

“You are right that this issue is a tough one. Although legal in Michigan for citizens with a certification card and a caregiver/supplier, at the federal level, marijuana is illegal. Nursing homes receive federal money for care, and often federal money for loans. This places Michigan providers in a very unclear position when they take care of residents who may have the legal right to use marijuana for pain control. Keep in mind that medical marijuana is not a physician prescribed treatment. There are many pharmacological and non-pharmacological alternatives for pain control. Some of our concerns are related to but not limited to drug interactions with marijuana, safety as it relates to cognitive changes, potential to affect mobility especially as it relates to falls and unintended risk to other residents. We are encouraging providers to consider adding information about this to their admission packets. For example, if the facility decides to not allow marijuana to be used in the facility, notice to this effect will give potential candidates for admission the necessary information to decide whether they want to proceed with admission in that facility or seek other nursing homes...While we have not provided specific advice, I trust this information will help you to develop your own position on this topic. Thanks, Roxanne and Howard”

### COMMENTS FROM MiMDA PRESIDENT MARK JACKSON:

This issue seems like a quagmire for our facilities. I think the issues of procurement, storage, distribution, dosing, protecting other residents, liability related to falls/confusion are great. I am recommending to my facilities an up-front ban on use of medical marijuana on the facility premises. We have no control what people do on their Leave of Absence. We already have a smoking ban in place for residents, staff, and visitors. Our local healthcare system, Munson Healthcare, has adopted a policy that medical marijuana is contraband. I have enclosed a copy of their policy that may help in developing guidelines for our facilities. I am going to be working with my Administrators and DON's on making medical marijuana contraband at my facilities. Please share your thoughts...

**NOTE** that Ms. Perry and Mr. Schaefer will be presenting at MiMDA's annual educational meeting October 5-6, 2012, at Park Place Hotel in Traverse City. See page 2 for more information.

# Michigan Medical Directors Association

## MiMDA Mission Statement:

The Michigan Medical Directors Association (MiMDA), the state chapter in Michigan for the American Medical Directors Association, the professional association of medical directors, attending physicians and others practicing in the long term care continuum, is dedicated to excellence in patient care and provides education, advocacy, information, and professional development to promote the delivery of quality of long term care medicine.

To join MiMDA and AMDA, go to: <http://www.amda.com/membership/benefits.cfm>

Michigan Medical  
Directors Association

To submit news, articles or  
comments, please contact

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## MiMDA Board Members:

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### **Iris Boettcher, MD, CMD, Treasurer and Immediate Past President**

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Chief, Division of Geriatrics, Spectrum Health Medical Group, Grand Rapids, MI

### **Marjorie Renfrow, MD**

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### **Peter Kovalszki, MD, CMD**

Corporate Medical Director, Evangelical Homes of Michigan Sterling Heights, MI

### **John (Jack) Voytas, MD, CMD**

Division of Geriatric Medicine, William Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak, MI, and Medical Director Woodward Hills Nursing Center, Bloomfield Hills, MI

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