

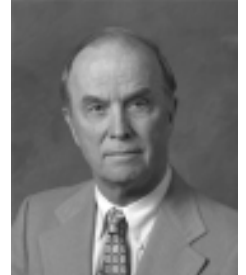


President's Comment

David O. Taber, M.D.

President

El Paso County Medical Society



Congratulations to Dr. Luis Urrea on his election as President of the El Paso County Medical Society and to all the members of the executive committee on their election.

I have projected some possible goals for the medical society for 2009.

1. Maintain proposition 12 , which has had a great beneficial effect on our state. At the present time we are seeing an increased number if physicians coming from states with malpractice crises.
2. Expedite the medical licensing processing.
3. Establish requirements of calories and trans-fats in all food services.
4. Medical loss ratio. The insurance companies continue to push for transparency on the part of physicians. I feel that we should have increased transparency with the insurance companies. Medical loss ration is a good way of determining the amount of money that is going into direct medical care. Set Limits.
5. Medicare reimbursement. This is a chronic ongoing problem that started back in 2002. I feel that physician ought to receive at least a cost of living rise in reimbursement since medical facilities, hospital have been receiving this during the six year period of time.
6. Do away with the Medicare Advantage programs. They cost approximately 17% above what standard Medicare costs. There has been increased amount of fraud, misrepresentation with some of the companies that offer the Medicare Advantage programs.
7. To expand the SCHIP & Medicaid programs.
8. To improve the student debt program, which is years behind cost of living increase.
9. Preventive care:
 - a. Vaccinations. Making them affordable in physician's offices.
 - b. Continue patient education.
 - c. Reward businesses that promote health through diet, exercises and weight loss for their employees.
10. Increase funding for our Medical School with the idea of add-

ing a nursing school and dental school in the future.

11. Continuing the education program that the Society sponsors on PBS, perhaps, include Spanish subtitles.
12. To expand Healthcare HEROES.
13. Improve pharmacy warnings to patients. At the present time they just list the side effects but fail to list the incidence percentage. It will improve patient compliance.
14. Increase El Paso County Medical Society membership.
15. Unify the Tumor Board (city-county-wide). At the present time we have received no data from the state regarding the patterns of cancer in our city.

I am sure as the year progresses there will be more issues that come to the fore. Best Wishes and please maintain your membership as I feel this is the only way that we can get the above programs in effect and maintain them.

David O. Taber, M.D.
 President
 El Paso County Medical Society

