**Practice Trends** PEDIATRIC NEWS • July 2008

## Congress Reverses Medicare's Physician Pay Cut

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fter several delays, Congress has acted to reverse a scheduled 10.6%cut to physician fees under Medicare and thus avert an estimated 5.4% cut that would have taken effect in Janu-

The legislation (H.R. 6331), which passed the House and Senate by vetoproof margins in early July, extends the 0.5% increase in place for the first half of 2008 and provides a 1.1% update for 2009. The bill also includes controversial cuts to the Medicare Advantage program, authorizes increased bonus payments for the Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI), and delays implementation of the Competitive Acquisition Program for durable medical equipment. The Medicare Advantage cuts had been the basis for President Bush's threatened veto, which had not been issued at press time.

Meanwhile, officials at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services released the 2009 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule proposed rule including new measures for the PQRI, new requirements for physicians offering diagnostic testing services, and plans to reevaluate services and supplies potentially valued incorrectly.

For the PQRI, Medicare's voluntary pay for-reporting program, the agency is recommending 56 new measures for 2009, bringing the total number to 175. Officials at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services also are proposing new "measures groups" that allow physicians to report on subsets of measures related to a particular clinical condition. For example, new measures groups for 2009 include coronary artery disease, coronary artery bypass surgery, HIV/AIDS, rheumatoid arthritis, care during surgery, and back pain.

In addition, CMS plans to begin allowing physicians to report on certain measures through electronic health records in 2009, pending successful testing this year.

Although the CMS proposal does not include bonus payments for physicians as part of the program, the pay fix legislation passed in Congress does. For 2009, physicians participating in PQRI will be eligible for bonuses of up to 2% of total allowable Medicare charges for successful reporting of measures. The legislation authorized additional bonuses of 2% for electronic prescribing quality measures.

The CMS proposal also would require physicians who perform diagnostic testing services to meet most of the quality and performance standards established for Independent Diagnostic Testing Facilities, including requiring a supervising physician to prove proficiency in the performance and interpretation of each diagnostic procedure and maintenance of an inventory of diagnostic testing equipment. The proposed rule also gives physicians a glimpse of the CMS thinking on the possible expansion of the agency's hospital-acquired conditions policy. Beginning Oct. 1, CMS will begin withholding payment to hospitals for certain conditions and infections acquired after admission.

While the agency did not propose any changes in policy, it wrote in the proposed rule that the hospital-acquired condition payment policy could be expanded into other settings, including hospital outpatient departments, skilled nursing facilities, and physician practices.

The proposed rule was published in the Federal Register on July 7 and can be found at www.cms.hhs.gov/center/physician.asp. CMS expects to issue a final rule by November.

## **Child Mental** Health Web Site

The Child Health and Development Interactive System has launched a new Web site, www.chadis.com, which features a demonstration video and a listing of mental health assessment tools for different age ranges. Managed by Total Child Health Inc., the CHADIS system enables pediatricians and other clinicians to administer and analyze previsit online questionnaires including Ages & Stages; Kutcher Adolescent Depression Screen; Pediatric Symptom Checklist and Vanderbilt Follow-Up; Parent and Teacher Informant; and Adverse Childhood Experiences. The American Academy of Pediatrics has named CHADIS as part of the "Pediatric Office of the Future."

## Vyvanse™ (lisdexamfetamine dimesylate)

MISUSE OF AMPHETAMINE MAY CAUSE SUDDEN DEATH AND SERIOUS CARDIOVASCULAR ADVERSE EVENTS.

INDICATIONS AND USAGE

Yoyans is indicated for the treatment of Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).

The efficacy of Vyoanse in indicated for the treatment of Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).

The efficacy of Vyoanse in the treatment of ADHD was established on the basis of two controlled trials in children aged 6 to 12, who met
DSM-IV\* criteria for ADHD (see CLINICAL TRIALS).

A diagnosis of Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD, DSM-IV\*) implies the presence of hyperactive-impulsive or inattentive
symptoms must cause dimpairment and were present before age 7 years. The symptoms must cause clinically significant impairment, in
social, academic, or occupational functioning, and be present in two or more settings, e.g., at school (or work) and at homen. In
symptoms must not be better accounted for by another mental disorder. For the Inatentive Type, at least six of the following symptoms
must have persisted for at least 6 months: lack of attention to details/careless mistakes; lack of sustained attention; poor instending anyout on the compaining leaving seat; poor organization; avoids taskes requiring sustained mental effort; loses things; easily distracted;
forgetful. For the Hyperactive-Impulsive Type, at least six of the following symptoms must have persisted for at least 6 months;
special Diagnostic Considerations. Specific elothogy of this symptom is unknown, and there is no ego; "excessive talking; blurting
answers; can't walt run; intrusive. The Combined Type requires both inattentive and hyperactive-impulsive criteria to be met.

Special Diagnostic Considerations. Specific elothogy of this symptom is unknown, and there is no single diagnostic test. Adequate
diagnosis requires the use not only of medical but of special psychological, educational, and social resources. Learning may or may or
the impaired. The diagnosis must be based upon a complete history and evaluation of the child and not solely on the presence of the
required number of DSM-IV characteristics.

sympathomimetic effects of a stimulant drug (see COMTRAINDICATIONS).

Its

Iden deaths, stroke, and myocardial infarction have been reported in adults taking stimulant drugs at usual doses for ADHD. Although
role of stimulants in these adult cases is also unknown, adults have a greater likelihood than children of having serious structural
liace ahonormalities, cardiomyopathy, serious heart rhythm abnormalities, coronary artery disease, or other serious cardiac problems.

Its with such abnormalities should also generally not be treated with stimulant drugs (see CONTRAINDICATIONS),

refension and other Cardiovascular Conditions

hulant medications cause a modest increase in average blood pressure (about 2-4 mmHg) and average heart rate (about 3-6 bpm), and
viduals may have larger increases. While the mean changes alone would not be expected to have short-term consequences, all patients
uld be monitored for larger changes in heart rate and blood pressure. Caution is indicated in treating patients whose underlying
itical conditions might be compromised by increases in blood pressure or heart rate, e.g., those with pre-existing hypertension, heart

re, recent myocardial infarction, or ventricular arrhythmic (see CONTRAINDIOCATIONS).

resing Cardiovascular Status in Patients being Treated with Stimulant Medications

dern, adolescents, or adults who are being considered for treatment with stimulant medications should have a careful history (including
sesment for a family history of sudden death or ventricular arrhythmia) and physical exam to assess for the presence of cardiac disease,

should receive further cardiac evaluation if findings suggest such disease (e.g. electocardiogram and echocardiogram). Patients who

elop symptoms such as exertional chest pain, unexplained syncope, or other symptoms suggestive of cardiac disease during stimulant

meth should undergo a prompt cardiac evaluation.

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re is some clinical evidence that stimulants may lower the convulsive threshold in patients with prior history of seizure, in patients prior EEG abnormalities in absence of seizures, and very rarely, in patients without a history of seizures and no prior EEG evidence lezures. In the presence of seizures, the drug should be discontinued.

AUTIONS

alt. The least amount of Vyvanse feasible should be prescribed or dispensed at one time in order to minimize the possibility of sage. Vyvanse should be used with caution in patients who use other sympathomimetic drugs.

umphetarinines have been reported to exacerbate motor and phonic tics and Tourette's syndrome. Therefore, clinical evaluation for of Tourette's syndrome in children and their families should precede use of stimulant medications. The properties of the patient to engage in potentially hazardous activities such as operating per or vehicles; the patient should therefore be cautioned accordingly. Beer or other health professionals should inform patients, their families, and their caregivers about the benefits and risks associated attentive this discontained and a should conset them in its appropriate use. A patient Medication Guide is available for Vyvanse, escriber or health professional should instruct patients, their families, and their caregivers to read the Medication Guide and should have in the patient of the Medication Guide and should answers to any questions they may have. The complete text of the Medication Guide is reprinted at the end of this document.

Methenamine therapy—Urinary excretion of amphetamines is increased, and efficacy is reduced by acidifying agents used in

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Interview—Auspreamments may oney missional assorption or principles, or anticonvulsaria distinct action. 
Propoxyphene — In cases of propoxyphene overdosage, amphetamine CNS stimulation is potentiated and fatal convulsions can occur. 
Veratrum alkaloids. — Amphetamines inhibit the hypotensive effect of veratrum alkaloids. 
Drug/Laboratory Test Interactions: Amphetamines can cause a significant elevation in plasma corticosteroid levels. This increase is 
greatest in the evening. Amphetamines may interfere with urinary steroid determination. 
Carcinogenesis/Mutagenesis and Impairment of Fertility: Carcinogenicity studies of lisdexamfetamine have not been performed. 
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Carcinogenesis/Mutagenesis and Impairment of Fertility: Carcinogenicity studies of lisdexamfetamine have not been performed. 
Carcinogenesis/Mutagenesis and Impairment of Fertility: Carcinogenicity studies of lisdexamfetamine ratio of 1:1) was administered to mice and rats 
in the diet for 2 years at doses of up to 30 mg/kg/day in male mice, 19 mg/kg/day in fenale mice, and 5 mg/kg/day in male and female rats. 
Lisdexamfetamine dimesylate was not clastogenic in the mouse bone marrow micronucleus test in vivo and was negative when tested in 
the E. Coli and S. Typhimurium components of the Ames test and in the L51787/TK" mouse lymphoma assay in vitro. 
Amphetamine (d to I enantiomer ratio of 3:1) did not adversely affect fertility or early embryonic development in the rat at doses of up to 20 mg/kg/day.

Body System	Preferred Term	Vyvanse (n=218)	Placebo (n=72)
Gastrointestinal Disorders	Abdominal Pain Upper Dry Mouth Nausea Vomiting	12% 5% 6% 9%	6% 0% 3% 4%
General Disorder and Administration Site Conditions	Pyrexia	2%	1%
Investigations	Weight Decreased	9%	1%
Metabolism and Nutrition	Decreased Appetite	39%	4%
Nervous System Disorders	Dizziness Headache Somnolence	5% 12% 2%	0% 10% 1%
Psychiatric Disorders	Affect lability Initial Insomnia Insomnia Irritability Tic	3% 4% 19% 10% 2%	0% 0% 3% 0% 0%
Skin and Subcutaneous Tissue Disorders	Rash	3%	0%

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