

New England Direct Primary Care Physicians Converge to Address Revolutionary Medical Movement and Formally Organize

By Rebecca Sacchetti

June 20, 2016

York Harbor, ME- Direct Primary Care physicians representing New England states converged at the Harbor Crest Inn in York Harbor, ME on Saturday to initiate the New England Direct Primary Care Alliance (NEDPCA). For the first time ever, this network of doctors whose medical practices follow the Direct Primary Care model will formally join resources, experience and efforts to promote, organize, and support this revolutionary medical movement that is on the cusp of taking New England, and the country, by storm.

Direct Primary Care (DPC) is a new model of practicing medicine in which the physician works directly with the patient to provide uncompromised medical care. Insurance companies are typically not involved in this model and the number of patients enrolled in each practice are usually limited so that extended time can be spent with patients. Unwanted fee-for-service incentives are replaced with a simple flat fee, thus allowing the physician to care for the patient as they see medically fit. Typically, patients pay monthly/annually for services to include: Guaranteed same- or next-day appointments with their physician, access to discounted medications and lab tests and unprecedented communication with their doctor via cell phone/email 24 hours a day.

~~Dr.~~ Peter Sacchetti, M.D. of Independent Health Advantage in York, ME is one of the newest physicians to join this medical movement. With opening his new practice in January of 2016, Dr. Sacchetti has become the first DPC Internal Medicine M.D. in the state of Maine and has seen a steady growth in the number of enrolling patients. The doctor attributes [that](#) trend to the fact that people are recognizing failures within the system and are looking for alternative models that offer higher quality care.

“Now more than ever, patients are driven to reduce spending and find a physician for their present and future needs- one who sticks around. Many of my patients who come in for an appointment can spend about an hour discussing their healthcare concerns in-depth.” With the average face-to-face time doctors spend with their patients running 8

minutes, patients of Direct Primary Care practices can benefit from relaxed unrushed visits due to the safe and reasonable patient panel size. "If labs are needed, I can order and conduct the testing on-site with results in about 12 minutes. There's no need to haul over to an off-site lab and wait days for test results. I am able to use my in-office lab to test and interpret patient samples and immediately discuss the results with them. If needed, I write a prescription and dispense their medication directly from my on-site pharmacy. The convenience of one stop shopping."

Physician dispensing regulations are governed at the state level typically by either the state's pharmacy or medical board(s). In New England, Massachusetts restricts providers from dispensing medicines. However, Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont have no restrictions in place.

Dr. Linnea Meyer, M.D. who DPC practice is Wellscape Family Medicine DPC in Downtown Boston hopes that organizing this movement with the NEDPCA will...

~~Dr. Jeff~~ Wacks, M.D. knew that Direct Primary Care was the route he wanted to take directly out of his residency program. Dr. Wacks quotes Victor Hugo, who says, "Nothing is stronger than idea whose time has come." A revolution and way of practicing medicine and directly upon graduating from his UMass Residency Program in (date), opened up Natick-based Patriot Direct Family Medicine. believes that because we believe in a free society, people can choose what types of products and services they want, including the type and quality of healthcare they want, and their options should be open and transparent. There is no one-size-fits all answer for healthcare.

Contact

To learn more about this newly formed organization and Direct Primary Care, please contact:

Peter Sacchetti, M.D.

Independent Health Advantage

1 Brickyard Lane, Suite D

York, Maine 03909

Office: 207-703-5365

Commented [LM1]: Do we know about Rhode Island and Connecticut? I want to say yes but am not 100% sure . . .

Commented [LM2]: Linnea Meyer, M.D., who opened Wellscape Direct MD in Downtown Boston, sees the formation of the NEDPCA as "an important step in broadening the awareness of DPC in New England - to educate patients and physicians, to advocate for legislation that would protect and support DPC practices, and to provide resources and support for other doctors who are interested in the model."

Commented [LM3]: Quoting Victor Hugo, "Nothing is stronger than an idea whose time has come," Dr. Wacks is opening Natick-based Patriot Direct Family Medicine directly after finishing residency. Dr. Wacks endorses the availability of choice when it comes to healthcare services and products rather than a one-size-fits-all answer.

Fax: 207-351-2575

www.ihealthyork.com

md@ihealthyork.com

OR

Linnea Meyer, M.D.

Wellscape Direct MD

30 Lancaster Street, Suite 100

Boston, MA 02114

Office: 617-918-7598

Imeyermd@me.com WellscapeDirectMD.com