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CLASS OF 2017: IT'S TIME TO FLY!
Brad Burmeister, MD
Resident Representative to the WACEP Board

There is a pair of geese and maybe six or seven of their babies that just love to sit out on my porch. It's awesome to watch them come up and snack on the droppings from the birdfeeder. Over the last couple of weeks, I've seen these little fuzz balls grow up in to nearly mature birds. They are at a point now where their feathers are starting to peek out and they are looking more and more like Mom and Dad. Soon they'll be completely grown adults and soaring all by themselves.

These geese remind me of the residency process. Initially, new residents are clumsy, requiring a lot of guidance from their attending. Soon though, they start to gain a few feathers. They can't yet fly, but they start to develop their own attitude and way to do things. Sometimes they even make bad choices, but the attending is nearby to correct it. Soon they have a full set of feathers and are ready to fly all by themselves.

The transition from emergency medicine residents to attending physicians is about to begin for 21 or so graduates in Wisconsin. It's a period filled with excitement and a little anxiety. Soon these residents will start their new jobs. They'll develop new relationships with the staff and their peers and fill the sometimes desperate void of a qualified Emergency physician in their communities. They'll also soon have the opportunity to finally start making some progress on those student loans!!

Class of 2017, soon it will be time to trust your wings. The last several years have readied them for this new journey. Every one of your feathers was earned and is strong! In just a few days, it's going to be time for you to fly! There will certainly be times over the next year that test your skills, but always go back to your fundamentals and never forget why you went in to this career in the first place, and you'll soar.

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WALKER OFFICIALLY ASKS FOR MEDICAID CHANGES

June 8, Wisconsin Health News

Gov. Scott Walker's Department of Health Services officially asked the federal government Wednesday to allow Wisconsin to become the first state to drug screen adult Medicaid enrollees without children. The [waiver amendment](#) also caps eligibility, imposes work requirements and charges premiums to members living below the poverty line.

DHS pared back some of the changes after receiving more than 1,000 pages of comments on the proposal. [Read more.](#)

Editor's note: WACEP partnered with ACEP and EDPMA and submitted comments to DHS on the waiver amendment. [Read WACEP's comments here.](#)

MEMBER IN THE NEWS

HSHS appoints Johnson as new System VP and Chief Physician Executive

Springfield-based Hospital Sisters Health System (HSHS) announced the appointment of Kenneth M. Johnson, MD, as HSHS vice president and chief physician executive. Johnson currently serves as chief physician executive for HSHS Eastern Wisconsin Division (EWD), which includes HSHS St. Vincent Hospital and HSHS St. Mary's Hospital Medical Center in Green Bay; HSHS St. Nicholas Hospital in Sheboygan; and HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital in Oconto Falls.

"In his new role, Dr. Johnson will lead System initiatives around quality, patient safety, and clinical integration," said HSHS President/CEO Mary Starmann-Harrison. "We look forward to having Dr. Johnson bring the leadership he has shown in our Eastern Wisconsin Division to our entire system."

Johnson received his Bachelor of Science from Louisiana State University A&M; his Doctor of Medicine from Louisiana State University Medical School; and his Masters of Public Health from the University of Illinois – Chicago, where he also completed his residency. Prior to joining HSHS, Johnson served as an emergency room physician at Columbia Hospital in Milwaukee, WI; and at St. Francis Hospital in Evanston, IL. He will begin serving in his new role July 10.

WHN CONFERENCE, JULY 19

Learn the Latest Developments on Health Reform and its Impact in Wisconsin

Get the full story on the twists and turns of federal health reform and what it means for Wisconsin. Sign up for this year's Wisconsin Health News conference and join us on Wednesday, July 19 in Madison. A full slate of national and local players will be brought in to provide in-depth perspective on the latest updates and developments. Speakers include:

- * Avik Roy, leading conservative thinker on health reform who served as policy advisor to three Republican presidential candidates, including Mitt Romney in 2012.
- * Julie Rovner, senior correspondent for Kaiser Health News and former reporter for NPR
- * Several vice presidents from the American Medical Association and America's Health Insurance Plans
- * Wisconsin Medicaid Director Mike Heifetz
- * Wisconsin Deputy Insurance Commissioner J.P. Wieske
- * Wisconsin Hospital Association CEO Eric Borgerding
- * Gundersen Health System CEO Dr. Scott Rathgaber
- * Molina Healthcare of WI Plan President Scott Johnson
- * UW Population Health Institute Program Manager Donna Friedsam
- * WI Collaborative for Healthcare Quality CEO Chris Queram
- * WI Council on Children and Families Research Director Jon Peacock

New this year! There will be enhanced opportunities for networking throughout the day with attendance by CEOs, executives and senior healthcare leaders from across the state. This will be an event you won't want to miss. Learn more and [register online](#).

WACEP's OPIOID PRESCRIBING WEBINAR AVAILABLE ON DEMAND

Still need your mandatory education on responsible opioid prescribing? WACEP is now offering an on-demand webinar. The session was recorded during the 2017 Spring Symposium, and physicians may register through the WACEP website to receive a link for viewing.

Participation in the webinar has been approved to meet the requirement for two hours of continuing education as mandated by the Wisconsin Medical Examining Board per Med 13.03(3) of the Wisconsin Administrative Code. [Sign up here](#).