

• 2010 Ophthalmic Coding Series: Specialty Modules collection (#012370)

• 2010 ICD-9 for Ophthalmology (#012389)

• 2010 ICD-9 Quick Reference Card (#012396)

Other updated coding resources, though not yet available, can be preordered.

• 2010 CPT Pocket Guide for Ophthalmology (#012390)

• 2010 Ophthalmic Coding Coach (#012366)

• AMA's 2010 CPT Standard Edition (#012393)

• AMA's 2010 CPT Professional Edition (#012392)

• AMA's 2010 HCPCS Level II Professional (#012391)

For more information about these coding products and for pricing, visit www.aao.org/codingproducts.

Members At Large

Illinois Association of Ophthalmology's Outreach in Vietnam

After the success of its 2008 trip to Hanoi, the Illinois Association of Ophthalmology (IAO) returned to Vietnam this July for the second phase of the organization's skills transfer and outreach in the area.

The latest trip started with a phacoemulsification course that took place at the Vietnam National Institute of Ophthalmology (VNIO) in partnership with Alcon-Vietnam.

Marian Sue Macsai-Kaplan, MD, and Ronald C. May, MD, taught the week-long series of lectures, wet labs and surgeries to about 15 ophthalmologists from



NEW DISABILITY CENTER. The third phase of the IAO program in Vietnam is to establish a facility in Vinh Linh that will provide services to the blind and visually impaired. "Our goal is only \$60,000, but clearly it will have a huge impact for this community," said Richard H. Paul, IAO executive director. Pictured above at the groundbreaking ceremony: Dr. Macsai-Kaplan, president-elect of the Eye Bank Association of America (far left) with her husband; Mr. Paul (center) with his daughter; and Dr. May (far right) with his wife.

throughout the country. This was followed by a day of cataract surgery with two of these students at their clinic in Dong Ha, an area close to the Vietnamese demilitarized zone that has experienced serious economic and health challenges. Some 14 patients also received cataract surgery done jointly by IAO members and two local ophthalmologists, Drs. Hoang Thi Thu Ha and Nguyen My Sen.

"I am very gratified with Alcon's sponsorship of our most recent program in Vietnam," said Dr. May, the IAO project director. "They really stepped up to the plate, not only providing financial support to the Illinois doctors and the VNIO course but also donating IOLs, equipment and personnel for our surgery in Dong Ha."

For more details about the IAO and its activities at home and abroad, visit www.ileyemd.org.

RICHARD H. PAUL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

Candidates' Views

Meet the Board of Trustee's Nominees for 2009 Election

In June, the Academy's Board of Trustees nominated an official slate of officers for its 2010 Board of Trustees. The following have given their consent to serve if elected and therefore constitute the official slate. If the Academy's membership approves all candidates, their respective terms begin Jan. 1, 2010. Members will be given the opportunity to vote online or by paper ballot for officers and trustee-at-large positions of the Board of Trustees.

Richard L. Abbott, MD Board of Trustees' Nominee for President-Elect

Receiving the nomination for the position of President-

WASHINGTON

Bonuses With U

By adopting and using certified EHR technology (HIT) software and achieving "meaningful use" of electronic health records, physicians can qualify for new incentive payments of up to \$44,000 over five years. The amount of the bonus involved in ensuring ophthalmologists receive the incentive money that was provided in the stimulus bill for adoption and use of EHR and other health information technology.

If adopted successfully by the end of 2009, physicians will be eligible for reimbursement up to \$4,000 in 2009, followed by yearly incentive payments of \$4,000 and \$2,000. Physicians adopting by Dec. 31, 2012, will be eligible for first-year payments of \$15,000, followed by yearly incentive payments of \$12,000, \$10,000, and \$8,000. The final "meaningful use" of HIT in an interim final rule will release its definition and final rule by the end of 2009. Additional 10 percent HIT bonus will be available for eligible physicians practicing in any professional shortage area. Practicing in a shortage area, HIT will face a reduction in their incentives, starting with a 1 percent reduction in 2016 and 3 percent in 2017, and a 5 percent reduction if fewer than 75 percent of the population use meaningful use.

To qualify for the incentives, physicians must have certified HIT systems based on meaningful use that the Department of Health and Human Services defines. The tentative goal for 2010 is to capture reportable health information to track key clinical conditions. Beyond 2010, meaningful use is to achieve a 5 percent reduction in support-care processes on key clinical conditions. Other meaningful use goals are:

- Ensuring that a percentage of patients have an up-to-date electronic health record
- Providing clinical decision support
- Reporting quality measures
- Providing patients with an electronic health record
- Exchanging health information between providers

The Academy will continue to participate in developments of HIT technology. For more information, visit www.aao.org. The Academy will participate in developments of HIT technology, to be released in December. Visit the Academy-sponsored booth at the American Academy of Ophthalmology (West, Booth #5159) during the JAO meeting.