



Advocates for Responsible Care

We will be their voice until their voices are heard.

Summer 2011

Hello ARxC Volunteers and Friends,

I hope you all are enjoying the summer and staying cool. Things are really heating up with ARxC this summer.

ARxC Diabetes Prevention Pilot Program©

This past month we have developed the new ARxC [Diabetes Prevention Pilot Program©](#). This program serves as an extension of the Medicare Diabetes Screening Project that is made available to Medicare beneficiaries. Our program, however, targets diabetic AND pre-diabetic adults and provides a number of evidence-based services like one-on-one counseling, Action Plan development, and long-term on-line and telephone support to ensure that the program goals are met. Most importantly our pilot program will be comprehensively evaluated to assess the degree to which it successfully addresses diabetes risk factors.

We are currently in the process of developing the curriculum and supplemental written materials. We are also working to secure sufficient funding and we have a community clinic and VSP Vision to roll out the ARxC Diabetes Prevention Pilot Program©, hopefully, this fall!

ARxC Health Plan Assessment Survey© Dissemination

The dissemination of the ARxC Health Plan Assessment Survey © is still underway. Unfortunately only 25% of our targeted numbers of participants have completed the survey.

There is much that you can do to help us get the survey out to folks and encourage them to participate by taking the survey.

1. If you are at least 18 years of age and legal resident of Georgia, please take the survey yourself. The link to the survey is: www.surveymonkey.com/s/NQ88GSM.
2. Encourage your friends and colleagues to take the survey. You can do this by disseminating the study recruitment flyer, the ARxC Health Plan Assessment

Survey © Newsletter Insert or inviting your Facebook friends to attend the online survey event available through ARxC's Facebook site. We also have brochures available that contain the link to the survey.

3. Get authorization for a trained public health professional to disseminate the survey on hard copy to a group of people from your community.
4. Help us follow up with the healthcare organizations that we have contacted to help us disseminate the survey link.

Please contact Haley at haley.stolp@gmail.com if you'd be interested in assisting us with any of the above mentioned dissemination strategies.

ARxC thanks our volunteer Heidi McIntyre for helping to disseminate the [ARxC Health Plan Assessment Survey ©](#) to our contacts. We appreciate the hours she spent calling our contacts and asking them to take the survey.

Dialysis Crisis

ARxC has not received any new information pertaining to the dialysis crisis. As it stands now the 30 patients remain at risk of losing their life-sustaining dialysis treatment on September 1, 2011 when Grady's contract with Fresenius expires. While financial difficulties make it difficult for us to formulate a lawsuit against Grady Hospital or a large-scale movement of resistance, we plan to organize a protest if the care is terminated. We are currently working to raise awareness about the issue. Please go to the [Dialysis Crisis](#) (or, en español, [Diálisis Crisis](#)) webpage for the latest developments and information. No matter the outcome, ARxC will continue to stand with the patients in the fight to find a lifetime supply of dialysis. Recently ARxC Dialysis Crisis was featured on NPR, Atlanta Journal Constitution and Georgia Health News. Please see our website to read the articles at www.advoactesforresponsiblecare.org.

Some of our Dialysis Volunteers did an appeal for donations and informed the public on the crisis. EL Patron radio 103.5 graciously gave us air time. We thank El Patron for their support and our volunteers for taking action! Another fund raiser is being organized for the beginning on September. Check our Facebook and website for details.

Opposing Higher Co-payments for Prescription Drug Tiers

ARxC continues to advocate against the increase in co-payments for *specialty brand tier* medications in Georgia. *Specialty brand tier medications* include drugs that are injected, infused, taken orally, or inhaled or that require special handling, close supervision, or monitoring. These include medications for Rheumatoid Arthritis, Systemic Lupus, Cancer, MS, plasma therapies and other life-threatening and chronic diseases.

We are encouraging persons to take a stand on this issue. Please go to the ARxC website and complete the [Specialty Tiers Petition](#) to document your opposition to this unjust practice and fax or send the completed form to ARxC (see below for ARxC's fax number and address). If you or a loved one depends upon specialty tier drugs, **please** share with us how an increase in a co-payment for your drug will affect you or your loved one and encourage others you know to do the same. To share your story go to http://advocatesforresponsiblecare.org/Story_Submission.html or send your story directly to Dorothy at dlg@wisdomofwellnessproject.com. We also have a Specialty Tier Survey for Rheumatologists available online to help us understand how this development is affecting their care to their patients. Please go to the to the [Specialty Tiers](#) website to learn more about this issue, how you may be affected and how you can get involved in the movement to stop private health insurance providers from increasing your co-insurance for *specialty brand tier drugs*.

We thank our S.T.A.R.S. and ARxC volunteers for getting over 100 signatures on our Specialty Tiers Petition!

Arthritis Walk

Thank you to all who came out to walk with us at the 2011 Arthritis Walk in May. The Wisdom Walkers ARxC successfully raised \$2,815 to go towards advancing research and development in arthritis solutions. Thank you to all supporters and donors. We thank our S.T.A.R.S. members for all their efforts to make this walk a success.



Wisdom Walkers ARxC at the 2011 Arthritis Walk

Networking and Medical Exchange

On August 9, 2011 ARxC attended a presentation of the 'Pfizer Helpful Answers Guide for Georgia' at City Hall with Mayor Kassim Reed, his staff, Dr. Satcher (former Surgeon General) from Morehouse College, The Black Nurses Association, The Hispanic Nurses Association, Pfizer Government Affairs Director and other community leaders. The new Atlanta Regional Health Care Guide (available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)) is a comprehensive listing of all health care resources for the uninsured and under-insured in Georgia. We will be distributing this new resource guide and placing the link to the document on our website.

ARxC is busy networking with other groups to advance our mission. We will be meeting with Dr. Mel Colon of the International Medical Clinics (IMC) this week. We hope to partner with IMC on the ARxC Diabetes Prevention Pilot Program, Specialty Tier

initiative, the development of the Medical Exchange Model, the Dialysis Crisis and other opportunities.

ARxC is attending the State Health Insurance Commissioner meetings, along with Dr. John Goldman who sits on the Medical Advisory Board for Georgia, to discuss patient/doctor advocacy concerns for Georgians. ARxC is also attending the Governor's Health Insurance Exchange Advisory Board meeting to ensure the voice of Georgia's uninsured, chronically ill, and otherwise disadvantaged residents is heard. We support establishing an exchange in Georgia and work to promote the components of our ARxC Exchange Model. We will keep our Exchange committee informed as to developments.

S.T.A.R.S.

ARxC [S.T.A.R.S.](#) group meets every month, usually the first Friday, at 12:30PM. S.T.A.R.S. meets monthly to provide an open and safe environment for members and guests to come together. We discuss the concerns, advocacy issues and direction for women in an enlightened time. We share our paths and passions with joyful activities in support of a healthful way of living that empowers us individually and collectively. It is our belief that we can be instrumental in helping ourselves, our group, our communities and our world as responsible advocates. If you would like to join us please call us at 404-633-5843.

We are always seeking new volunteers. Please ask your friends and colleagues to join ARxC. Thank you again for being an ARxC volunteer and friend. We appreciate your efforts in contributing to our cause of "effectively reducing cultural incompetency and health care delivery disparity."

Sincerely,
Haley

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