



New York State Committee For Physician Health

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Chairman of the CPH Advisory Committee**

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The Role of the CPH Advisory Committee

By John S. McIntyre, MD,
Psychiatrist and Chair of the CPH Advisory Committee

The Committee for Physician Health (CPH) is a division of the Medical Society of the State of New York. CPH provides confidential non-disciplinary assistance to physicians recovering from substance use and other psychiatric disorders under the policy guidance of the CPH Advisory Committee.

The CPH Advisory Committee is comprised of about 20 physicians appointed annually by the MSSNY President. These dedicated physicians volunteer to not only oversee program policy but also review difficult cases. Committee members are drawn from a broad range of specialties including psychiatry, surgery, primary care, ob-gyn, anesthesiology and rehabilitation medicine.

The Advisory Committee meets formally in person several times each year to review policy issues and discuss future initiatives for CPH. The Committee and its subcommittees conduct business throughout the year through frequent telephone conference calls at least monthly but more frequently as necessary.

In addition to reviewing policy and quality assurance issues, one of the most important Advisory Committee functions is to review difficult cases. The collective expertise of the Committee is available to provide guidance to CPH staff on decisions regarding treatment, compliance, provider selection, etc.

The Advisory Committee is responsible for maintaining a Bill of Rights for physicians participating in CPH. The Bill of Rights establishes confidentiality provisions and accords physicians an opportunity for a clinical review of their cases by the Advisory Committee. Most frequently, the CPH Advisory Committee becomes involved in reviewing cases with a complex clinical presentation.

From time to time, a recovering physician is not able to remain abstinent and needs to withdraw from the practice of medicine for the benefit of patients under his/her care. If intervention efforts fail (and such efforts are typically quite extensive), the CPH Advisory Committee has the final responsibility to determine actions necessary to protect the public, actions which may include a report to the Office of Professional Medical Conduct.

CPH offers educational presentations to the medical community on Physician Impairment. Talks are given at institutions including hospitals, medical schools, physician assistant training programs, medical and specialty societies, and more. Category I CME credit for physicians and PAs is available for 1-hour sessions during grand rounds and other meetings. Shorter talks are given to leadership groups such as Medical Boards and Executive Committees. These presentations can be used to fulfill educational requirements such as those required by the ACGME for residents, and by the JCAHO Standard 2.6 on Physician Health.

To schedule a presentation, please contact:

**Terrance Bedient at
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Recovering from failure is often easier than building from success.

- Michael Eisner

Members of the CPH Advisory Committee describe their volunteer service as very rewarding. Recognizing that some of our colleagues have difficulties demands a focused, dedicated and compassionate approach to their recovery without which, they would be a loss to the physician community as well as the patient population which they serve. Physicians are a valuable resource for their communities - and the communities are invested in the physician. If we can help recovering physicians maintain their health as well as their practice, it is a great personal reward and a significant contribution to our society.

John S. (Jack) McIntyre, M.D. has been Chairman of the CPH Advisory Committee since 2001. He is Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Rochester and immediate past Chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health at Unity Health System in Rochester, New York.



Dr. McIntyre has served as both President and Speaker of the Assembly of the American Psychiatric Association (APA) and has served in the APA Assembly for 25 years. He has led the APA Practice Guideline project since its inception in 1990 and has chaired the Steering Committee of the APA Practice Research Network since 1992. He currently is APA's Senior Delegate to the American Medical Association and Chairs the AMA Section Council on Psychiatry. Dr. McIntyre is Chair of the Section on Quality Assurance of the World Psychiatric Association.

Dr. McIntyre's current research interests focus on the integration of behavioral health and primary care, and the impact of practice guidelines on clinical care. He has been Principal Investigator of two SAMHSA grants on mental health and substance abuse services. Dr. McIntyre has numerous publications, has lectured widely, nationally and internationally and is the recipient of a number of state and national awards.

Dr. McIntyre has maintained a private practice of psychiatry for 30 years has been very active with patient advocacy organizations including NAMI and has been very involved in efforts to decrease the stigma of mental illness and end the discriminatory reimbursement of mental health and substance abuse services. Dr. McIntyre is the current President of the Rochester Academy of Medicine and serves on several not-for-profit boards in upstate New York.

