

DECEMBER 2023



PO Box 496 Rhinebeck, NY 12572
845-205-2750

Visit our Website

Member Application

Affiliate Application

DECEMBER 27, 2023



Hello again!

I want to thank everyone who called or wrote Governor Hochul regarding the Wrongful Death Lawsuit expansion bill.

Just a quick follow up. We received a recent update from MSSNY, and at this time the bill has not yet been sent to the Governor. According to MSSNY this means that it will likely be carried over into a 30-day consideration period in January of 2024. This is the scenario that occurred last year. When it is delivered, there will be another “call to action” sent from MSSNY to contact the Governor’s office and let her know that the medical community does not support this bill.

Otherwise not much to report! Have great Holidays and a Happy New Year, and keep watch for upcoming DCMS events.

Adam Rubinstein, MD

**Dutchess County Behavior & Community Health
Commissioner's Corner**

Happy Holidays! I present my offering of some reminders from the world of local public health:



Scanned with CamScanner

It's also respiratory season, at least in theory. The last two years have seen some upheaval in the previously predictable seasonality of respiratory bugs, but we still expect increased influenza, COVID and RSV activity over the winter. There are some good resources that can help you stay on top of the what's happening locally. The NY State DOH maintains [current COVID data](#) on their website; you can filter the data by Region or County, and look at trends in testing and hospitalizations. The State

DOH has an [influenza page](#) with links to their [weekly reports](#). The [DOH RSV resources](#) aren't as robust but contain some useful links and information, including information about the vaccines recently approved for those 60 and older. Note that due to a national shortage, the CDC has issued [updated guidelines](#) for the use of nirsevimab, the monoclonal "immunization product" approved for babies under 19 months, recommending limiting its use to babies under 8 months, or those 8-19 months with risk of severe RSV disease.

Please consider that this season is associated with increases in problems with substance use and addiction. We want Dutchess County to be a place where recovery is possible and supported by our physicians. We want those who need help to be able to seek it without fear of stigma or closed doors. There are too many lives being lost to overdoses, and we as physicians can be part of the solution.

Prescribe and dispense naloxone liberally. Please screen patients for substance use disorders and refer them for medication assisted treatment (MAT) for opioids. [Sun River Health offers MAT](#) in multiple locations in Dutchess County, but we need more of you to treat these individuals! Learn about harm reduction, including fentanyl test strips, syringe exchange, and intranasal naloxone so you can better educate patients and families. Our [Empowerment Center](#) is open Monday through Friday and provides free access to peer recovery coaches who are trained in harm reduction and trauma informed care, and can advocate for individuals and help connect them to the help they need. All that said, our data show that many overdoses involve not just opioids, but also prescribed medications, particularly benzodiazepines.

In Dutchess County, there were almost [400 benzodiazepine prescriptions](#) for every 1000 residents—something we should all view with high concern. This winter, I would encourage all prescribers to review and revise medication regimens, and consider tweaks to your overall practice, with all this in mind.

Finally, in the spirit of the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday, I would like to thank you for continuing to serve this community. This past weekend, my daughter and I volunteered at an incredible Coat Sort event. It was the culmination of the annual Coat Drive organized by [Dutchess Outreach](#), an incredible organization that addresses food insecurity and other needs right in the heart of the City of Poughkeepsie. I was struck not only by the size of the volunteer crew, dozens of them, that showed up in force, but also by the sheer scale of the donation—an estimated 12,000 coats plus hundreds of hats, scarves, and gloves. I believe those piles of coats reflect a spirit of consideration and generosity I see everywhere in Dutchess County. And for this too, I am grateful.

My wishes to you and yours for a Happy Thanksgiving,

REAL ESTATE OPPORTUNITIES

unitedgroup



United Group's **Keith Axelrod** offers real estate investment opportunities. Local investors including Drs. Russell Tigges, Scott Hayworth, William Colman, Gary Nathanson, Fatos Rugova, Diane Kraus, Chris Sclafani, Stuart Weinberger, Kavita Aggarwal and Manoj Abraham are just a few you may know. Permission to state their name was granted by each with no compensation to them.

\$13.9 Million Dollars was recently raised from 64 investors for our senior housing project in Stuart, Florida and \$14 Million Dollars from over 90 investors for our senior housing project in Sarasota, Florida. Both are managed by The United Group. Pictured below is our senior housing project in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida.

Contact Keith at (914) 456-0708, Keith.axelrod@ugoc.com for information!



Credit Card Processing Services



BPS is a leading provider of the most advanced and competitive credit card processing services locally and nationally for over twenty years. We specialize in working with businesses as a partner, to provide products and services that meet your

financial needs and save you money at the same time. An outstanding reputation for excellent customer and technical service with expertise in a very challenging industry.

BPS

MARYANN B. TOMPKINS
914-475-1224

Business & Personal Insurance Services

How We Can Help You -Sellers Insurance has specialized in insurance for physicians, their practices, and their families for over 75 years. We understand your personal and business circumstances and can help you make the right decisions to protect what you've worked so hard for.

Your Benefits as a Dutchess County Medical Society Member -You have access to members-only insurance programs, including high-quality **disability income and disability overhead**, which offer reasonable premiums and protect you in your specialty. If you become disabled and need to make a claim, we provide all claims service in-house, which allows for more personalized, prompt, and accurate claims payment.

We Can Also Assist You with -We can also assist you with Business Insurance (including Property & General Liability packages, Workers Compensation, Business Auto, Employment Practices Liability Insurance, Cyber Insurance, NYS Disability Benefits Law/Paid Family Leave Coverage) and Personal Insurance (including Life Insurance, Long Term Care, Home, Auto, Umbrella, Boat, etc.)



Charles J. Sellers & Co., Inc.
PO Box 460, 4300 Camp Road
Athol Springs, NY 14010
www.sellersinsurance.com
716.627.5400/800.333.5440
insurance@sellersinsurance.com

Tax & Accounting Services

SERROUKAS & BADAT, CPA

Partner of the Dutchess County Medical Society and counts numerous physicians and medical groups as clients. Members of the Medical Society are eligible for a no charge consultation to discuss your accounting needs, make sure to mention you are a member of Dutchess County Medical Society when you call.

Phone: (845) 229-0090

4290 Albany Post Rd, Hyde Park, NY 12538

We are Certified Public Accountants, here locally for all of your Tax and Accounting needs. Serroukas & Badat is a Preferred

Storage Solutions



We've got the Space You Need -Welcome to Guardian Self Storage, the leading storage solution for businesses in the Hudson Valley. We offer a wide selection of room sizes, 24/7 access, hassle-free drive up locations for easy moving, temperature controlled rooms and traditional units, a variety of moving

and packing supplies and free use of our truck (some restrictions apply).

Save 10% on Self Storage -Dutchess County Medical Society members receive a 10% discount on storage. Save while you gain more space. Store your medical records, equipment or household items.

Rest Easier Knowing Your Belongings Are Safe -When you choose Guardian Self Storage, you can rely on safety. Security cameras, strategic security lighting and gated access are in place at all locations.

No Long Term Commitments -You can choose just how long you want to keep your items conveniently stored away.

14 convenient locations in Dutchess, Orange and Ulster counties
Wappingers Falls and New Windsor offices are open on Sundays

Reserve online at [www. guardianselfstorage.com](http://www.guardianselfstorage.com)

or call **1-877-416-0606** to find out more!

MLMIC INSURANCE COMPANY



MLMIC is a leader in the medical malpractice insurance industry and has been meeting the professional liability needs of healthcare professionals for more than 30 years. Its mission is to provide quality professional liability insurance to physicians, dentists, hospitals, and other healthcare professionals at the lowest possible cost - [click here for more information.](#)

DCMS Sponsorship Opportunities

Interested in reaching over 2500 local medical providers and supporting our local Medical Society?

[Click here for exciting sponsorship opportunities!](#)

