

## **Payors, Plans, and Managed Care Practice Group**

### **"Burning the candle at both ends: Looking back and ahead"**

#### **Looking Back on 2009–2010**

The Payors, Plans, and Managed Care Practice Group (PPMC) did it again. Since July 1, 2009, PPMC delivered all of the following benefits to its members for a **single \$50 payment**:

- **New Health Plans Affinity Group (HP AG) with three "brown bag lunch calls";**
- **Eleven educational webinars;**
- **Second successful year Mentoring Program;**
- **Three in-depth Member Briefings;**
- **Two newsletters (August and December 2009 Editions);**
- **Average of five email alerts every month on breaking news and hot topics;**
- **Joint white paper with Antitrust and Business Law and Governance PGs;**
- **Healthcare Reform Educational Task Force;**
- **Medicare Part D Task Force;**
- **Emergency Preparedness AG;**
- **Managed Care Contracting AG;**
- **Stimulating Discussion List debates;**
- **Interest survey opportunities; and**
- **Managed Care Contracting Toolkit.**

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#### **Educational Teleconferences**

Under the leadership of Vice Chair of Educational Programs Todd Ebersole, the PPMC PG has provided outstanding educational programs in the **budget-friendly** teleconference format. Since July 2009, PPMC sponsored or co-sponsored the following webinars:

- Medicare Risk Adjusters: A New Frontier and Potential Legal Issues for Plans and Providers;
- Part D Compliance;
- Implementing Congressional Healthcare Decision-Making: Demystifying the Development of Regulatory Policy at CMS;
- Settlement Impact on AWP Drug Pricing for Payors, Pharmacies, PBMs, and Consumers;
- Healthcare Reform Update Conference Calls (bi-weekly series);
- Understanding and Managing the Challenges of the HITECH Act (HPAG brown bag);
- Out-of-Network Provider Reimbursement by Health Insurers—An Overview of the New Paradigm (HP AG brown bag);

- Recent Healthcare Fraud Enforcement Efforts Under the Obama Administration and Impact to Payors, Plans, and Providers;
- Why Don't Health Insurance Markets Work Like Other Markets? Or Do They?;
- Impact of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act Rule upon Plans;
- Impact of Healthcare Reform on Managed Care Drug Benefits and Programs

#### **Publications**

Vice Chair of Publications Anne Hance has again led the PPMC's production of outstanding publications since July 2009, including:

- **Member Briefing** on New York Attorney General's settlement with various health insurers relating to use of the Ingenix database ("Usual, Customary, and Unreasonable?")
- **PPMC Summer 2009 Newsletter** with articles on Medical Tourism, HITECH, and HIPAA, and Navigating the Health Information Technology Regulatory Landscape, a case summary, our special "Did You See . . . ?" column, and a letter from the chair.
- **PPMC Winter 2009 Newsletter** with articles on PBM fiduciary duties, privileged status of provider credentialing files, and developing fraud enforcement trends affecting payors and providers, and regular features.
- **Member Briefing** analyzing CMS' proposed rule affecting the Medicare Advantage and Part D Programs.
- **White Paper** (jointly undertaken by PPMC, Antitrust, and Business Law and Governance PGs) with in-depth analysis of the issues that ultimately led to the withdrawal of the proposed Highmark-Independence BCBS merger.
- **And Coming Soon . . .** a supplemental Member Briefing analyzing CMS' final rule affecting the Medicare Advantage and Part D Programs, and an Executive Summary on new trends for Medicaid MCOs.

**Volunteer authors are needed, and healthcare reform offers great material in addition to issues that are always of interest.**

#### **Health Plan AG**

As the result of input by our members, the PPMC PG launched the HP AG. Under inaugural co-chairs Linda Tiano and Kirk Nahra, the HP AG serves as a forum for the exchange of information, ideas, and best practices among lawyers who represent health plans. This group already has more than sixty members and has produced three "brown bag luncheons," two of which were substantive presentations on topics of interest to counsel for health plans. If you represent health plans, as in-house or outside counsel, this is the group you need to join.

## Email Alerts on Breaking News and Hot Topics

Guided by Anne, PPMC **email alert** co-chairs Lyn Macareg and Brian Stimson released an average of five **email alerts** *each and every month*, within days of new developments in the managed care industry, several as joint undertakings with other PGs and task forces. Writing an email alert is a terrific way to “dip your toes” into active participation in PPMC. **We are actively seeking authors to help prepare these short summaries of important developments in the managed care industry.**

## Groundbreaking Mentoring Program

The PPMC PG’s Mentoring Program, led by Vice Chair of Research Robin Fisk, successfully completed its second year of operation. The program has been a valuable benefit to newer members of AHLA and our PG, especially those new to health law and who want to increase their healthcare knowledge and develop into leaders. Mentees are actively welcomed into PPMC PG activities and projects. It is also a terrific way for seasoned AHLA veterans to “give back” to the organization that has served them for years.

## Healthcare Reform Educational Task Force

The PPMC PG is proud to be one of eight Practice Groups sponsoring the Healthcare Reform Educational Task Force (HCR TF). Chaired by Robert Kessler, this nonpartisan, educational task force has issued numerous summaries of healthcare reforms throughout the United States and updates on the latest proposals and developments. The HCR Task Force regularly provides email alerts regarding federal and state developments in healthcare and sponsors a multi-part teleconference/webinar series on healthcare reform.

## Emergency Preparedness AG

The PPMC PG is one of the four PGs that proudly co-sponsor this AG, which focuses on content and issues of concern to both payors and providers. PPMC PG members will have access to the Emergency Preparedness Toolkit, including the reimbursement section of the toolkit developed by PPMC PG Chair Lisa Hathaway and Vice Chair of Strategic Activities Jim Wolf.

## Medicare Part D Task Force

Todd and Anne are the PPMC liaisons and participants in the Medicare Part D Task Force, which was quite active and continued to explore Part D topics of interest to our members through email alerts, white papers, teleconferences, and webinars.

## Managed Care Contracting AG

Chaired by Leah Stewart, our Managed Care Contracting AG developed additional content for Phase II of the Managed Care Contracting Toolkit on the PPMC PG website. **The Toolkit provides valuable contracting resources for PPMC PG members representing payors or providers. Please contact us if you would like to participate in its growth and development or have suggestions on how to make this member benefit more valuable to you.**

## Member Interest Surveys

Vice Chair of Membership Mark Kopson has led our efforts to discover what our members want and need from their PPMC PG membership and how to best provide the maximum benefit for your dues. PPMC PG surveys solicited input from all AHLA members, both PPMC members and non-members. We asked. You spoke. We listened!

## Looking Ahead to 2010-2011

### Healthcare Reform? We’re On It!

Without a doubt, payors, plans, and managed care all are central to healthcare reform. Because of that, the PPMC PG has appointed Brian Stimson “train conductor” to serve as PPMC’s central point of contact for all aspects of healthcare reform and as PPMC’s coordinator with the Healthcare Reform Educational Task Force. PPMC also is forming a volunteer subcommittee of seasoned health lawyers to serve as a “sounding board” for reform-related topics for PPMC PG teleconferences, webinars, articles, and brown bag lunch programs.

### Cutting-Edge Publications? We’ll have them!

- Summer: The **PPMC Summer 2010 Newsletter**, with a healthcare reform theme including articles on accountable care organizations and grandfathered plans, short summaries on legal developments relating to healthcare reform (e.g., new regulations), and our “Did You See . . . ?” column highlighting other issues of interest to our members.
- Summer: **Executive Summary** analyzing recent trends in plan-provider litigation.
- January–June 2011: **Executive Summaries** regarding the early retiree reinsurance program and the new medical loss ratio requirements.

### Teleconferences on the hottest issues? We’re bringing them to you!

- Trends in Managed Care Litigation: 2010 and Beyond
- Part D Plan Impact due to Revisions to Chapter 9.

**More web content is also on the way: tutorials, checklists, and samples. Check us out!**

# ***Payors, Plans, and Managed Care Practice Group***

## **Interested in getting involved?**

**Our goal is delivering high quality at low cost, thereby providing maximum value to our members. Let us know how you feel we are doing and what else we can do for you. Better yet, get involved! We welcome health lawyers of all ages and experience levels and believe that everyone has some value to contribute. Regardless of how much time you can or wish to commit, we welcome your participation!**

***The PPMC PG would like to thank our incredibly talented and generous group of volunteers:***

### **PPMC PG Publication Volunteers 2009-2010**

<b>Rogelyn McLean</b>	<b>Elisa Harris</b>
<b>Cynthia Marcotte Stamer</b>	<b>Alicia María Robles</b>
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<b>Blake Schofield</b>	<b>Christine Williams</b>
<b>Elizabeth Lippincott</b>	<b>Lauren Haley</b>

**Special thanks to Lyn Macareg and Brian Stimson  
2009-2010 PPMC Email Alert co-chairs**

### **PPMC PG Education Program Volunteers 2009-2010**

<b>Christina Heide</b>	<b>Todd Ebersole</b>
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<b>Lauren Haley</b>	<b>Barbara Ryland</b>
<b>Hope Foster</b>	<b>Lisa Hathaway</b>

**We would love to be thanking *you* at this time next year!**

**Please contact the [PPMC Leadership](#) to discuss membership or volunteer opportunities. Access contact information at:**