

Dear all:

Please allow this to be an update of MAG activities over the last few weeks. As always, my previous updates can be found at <http://www.mag.org/resources/executive-directors-message>.

### **Blue Cross Blue Shield of Georgia Emergency Policy (Update)**

BCBS's new emergency policy for health insurance exchange plans will go into effect on July 1. As you may recall, BCBS will retrospectively determine if a condition was non-emergent at the point of service and may refuse payment to the hospital and the physician. To date, BCBS has failed to submit the diagnostic codes (locally and nationally) that will be used to determine if a condition is deemed non emergent for the benefit of patients, physicians and healthcare providers. Additionally, BCBS has failed to submit written answers to the questions presented by MAG, organized medicine and other stakeholders. We are in the process of setting up a meeting with the relatively new leadership within BCBS to further discuss this issue.

To address BCBS, a MAG alert went out last week with instructions on how to address BCBS' new policy. The alert can be found at <http://www.mag.org/news/article/MAG-encouraging-Georgians-to-act-on-BCBS-ER-policy>

Here are the recommendations from the alert:

- Contact Georgia Insurance Commissioner Ralph Hudgens' office at 404.656.2070 or 800.656.2298 or [click here](#) to share their concerns or to file a complaint that is related to the new BCBS ER policy. (Note that an online account must be created to submit an email).
- Email their concerns and complaints related to the BCBS ER policy to MAG at [workercomp@mag.org](mailto:workercomp@mag.org).
- Contact BCBS at the 'member services' telephone number that is located on their ID card or log into their BCBS member account at [bcbsga.com](http://bcbsga.com) to confirm what services will or will not be covered under their policy and how much money they will owe if BCBS determines that the care they receive is not deemed an emergency.
- Schedule an annual wellness visit with a primary care physician to minimize the chance that they will need non-emergency care in an ER.

For a Fact Sheet to place in your offices, please go to <http://www.mag.org/sites/default/files/downloads/MAGBCBSERPolicyFactSheet2017.pdf>.

### **Senate Healthcare Bill (HR 1628 – Better Healthcare Reconciliation Act)**

The United States Senate has released its version of healthcare reform. MAG has some House of Delegates' policies that address the individual and employer mandates. However, MAG's policy compendium is void of some of issues being discussed in the new healthcare bill.

MAG is soliciting the input of its membership on various portions of the Senate bill. Here is a link to the survey - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RWVYFQD>. The results of the survey will be presented to MAG leadership to formulate a position, if necessary, on the healthcare reform bill. The original due date of the survey was June 27. However, given the Senate's delay in voting on the bill, we have extended the survey until after the July 4<sup>th</sup>.

## **MACRA/QPP**

CMS has recently released the proposed rule for MACRA/QPP. Please see the following link - <http://www.mag.org/news/article/AMA-commends-CMS-for-QPP-proposals> - that has information and fact sheets. A big thank you to the AMA for their work on this rule. If you should have any questions, please contact Kim Ramseur at [kramseur@mag.org](mailto:kramseur@mag.org).

MAG is also having seminars on the QPP program that is free to physicians and can be found at <http://www.mag.org/news/article/MAG-GMGMA-to-host-free-QPP-webinar-on-July-14>.

If you are interested in the Compass PTN program, there is a seminar in Augusta in August to assist practices in the transition. More information can be found at <http://www.mag.org/news/article/Compass-PTN-to-host-learning-meeting-in-Augusta>.

## **Blue Cross Blue Shield of Georgia Sued**

Please see the following link where allegations have been made against BCBS for contractual underpayments. <http://www.dailyreportonline.com/id=1202790719788/Blue-Cross-Accused-of-Underpaying-Walker-Countys-Only-Hospital?slreturn=20170527152638>

If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

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