Dear all:

Please allow this to be a brief summary of MAG’s activities since my last update. As always, my previous updates can be found at [http://www.mag.org/resources/executive-directors-message](http://www.mag.org/resources/executive-directors-message). Please feel free to forward to others.

**Accountable Care Organizations**  
Last night, we held a forum with Jeff Giadone, Craig Keyes and Eva Vyas of Alere Health on ACO’s. Please take a moment to listen to the forum at [http://www.mag.org/news/articles/alere-aco-townhall](http://www.mag.org/news/articles/alere-aco-townhall) and let us know if you have any questions. Additionally, the JMAG devoted an entire issue to ACO’s earlier this year and can be found at [http://www.pubman.net/imags/mag0313/](http://www.pubman.net/imags/mag0313/).

**HIPAA**  
The new HIPAA rules become effective September 23, 2013. Sidney Welch of Kilpatrick, Townsend & Stockton drafted a summary on the new HIPAA rules that can be found at [http://www.mag.org/news/articles/omnibus-final-rule](http://www.mag.org/news/articles/omnibus-final-rule). I have cc’d Sidney on this email in the event you have any specific questions. Additionally, we will run another piece in our JMAG Journal.

**Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP)**  
The PDMP is up and running. The PDMP is a database that will be useful in curbing the prescription drug abuse epidemic. For more information, please go to [http://www.mag.org/news/articles/pdmp](http://www.mag.org/news/articles/pdmp).

**ICD-10**  
Drs. Billy Silver (MAG President-Elect), John Harvey (MAG Speaker of the House), Quentin Pirkle (MAG Board of Directors) and I met with Senator Johnny Isakson at his office in metro Atlanta. We discussed the problems and costs associated with implementation of ICD-10 from ICD-9 and requested he sign onto S. 972, which would prohibit HHS from implementing ICD-10. Senator Isakson is still reviewing the issue. Special thanks to Dr. Tom Emerson (MAG Board of Director) who also called Senator Isakson to express his concerns with the implementation of ICD-10.

**Sustainable Growth Rate**  
As previously reported, the SGR Repeal Bill passed the House of Representatives Energy and Commerce Committee and is now awaiting debate in the Ways and Means Committee. A summary of the bill can be found at [http://www.mag.org/news/articles/repeal-sgr](http://www.mag.org/news/articles/repeal-sgr). Towards that end, we have met with Congressmen Phil Gingrey and Tom Price to discuss the bill, as well as further advocate for the right for physicians to privately contract with their patients. Please feel free to send me your thoughts on what is being discussed on the SGR.

**Correctional Medicine**  
The MAG Committee on Correctional Medicine recently awarded the inaugural Herman E. Spivey, MD, Award for Excellence to the Douglas County Sheriff’s Department for its quality of inmate health care. The press release is attached to this email. Congratulations to Dr. Patton Smith, the committee and Clyde Maxwell for their work in correctional medicine to ensure the health of Georgia’s inmates. For more information on Correctional Medicine, please go to [http://www.mag.org/organizations/correctional-medicine](http://www.mag.org/organizations/correctional-medicine).

**MAG Legislative Agenda/Council on Legislation**  
The Council on Legislation met on August 7 to begin deliberations on MAG’s Legislative Priorities for 2014. The Council on Legislation will make a recommendation for the 2014 Legislative Priorities to our Board of Directors, who will approve in October. Issues discussed on the call included the following:

- Prohibition of All Product Clauses in Health Insurance Contracts
- Transparency/Truth in Advertising for Physicians and Health Care Providers
- Early Resolution- a version of tort reform
- Definition of Surgery
- Funding for Prescription Drug Monitoring Program
• Physician Tax Credit
• Licensing of Lactation Consultants
• E-Discovery
• Certificate of Need Reform

Any other issues of interest should be submitted to Marcus Downs at mdowns@mag.org.

**MAG MEP 401K Plan**
The MAG MEP 401K Plan is off to a great start in its first year. We will have an update at the upcoming board meeting in December. Towards that end, please see an economic outlook update from Atlanta Capital Group that is attached to this email.

As always, if you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

Donald

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