Dear all:

Please allow this to be an update of MAG’s activities over the last few weeks. Please feel free to forward this email to others. Also, previous updates can be found at [http://www.mag.org/resources/executive-directors-message](http://www.mag.org/resources/executive-directors-message).

**House of Delegates (HOD)**
The MAG House of Delegates is rapidly approaching. As part of providing education on various issues to be discussed at the HOD, we held a Town Hall meeting last week featuring Maurice Sholas, MD and Todd Williamson, MD discussing the “pros” and “cons” of PPACA, specifically Medicaid expansion, health insurance exchanges and comparative effectiveness. This forum is a “must listen” in preparation of the HOD. The Town Hall recording can be found at [http://www.mag.org/news/articles/forum-recording](http://www.mag.org/news/articles/forum-recording). Dr. Sholas and Dr. Williamson did an outstanding job discussing their respective positions.

In addition to determining policy, the HOD elects some of the MAG officers. Those physicians running for elected offices have declared their candidacy and submitted letters outlining their intent. These candidates and their letters can be found at [http://www.mag.org/about-us/house-of-delegates](http://www.mag.org/about-us/house-of-delegates). Please take a minute to read these letters to find out about the candidates seeking leadership positions within your association.

**Georgia Board of Chiropractic Examiners (GBCE)**
As you may recall, GBCE proposed a rule several months ago that would allow chiropractors to perform manipulation under anesthesia. We reached out to the GBCE and express our patient safety concerns and the rule was tabled. We have been notified that GBCE has modified the rule. We still have patient safety concerns and we also question their legal authority to enact such a rule. We will continue to work with the Georgia Society of Anesthesiologists and the Georgia Orthopaedic Society in opposing this rule and protect patients.

**Health Insurance Companies**
We routinely meet with the health insurers to discuss various issues that affect patients and physicians. Recently, we met with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Georgia and expressed our concern with their new program that provides “BCBSGa members with information to help them compare the costs and quality of imaging services that their health care provider has recommended.” According to BCBSGa, “once a referral is made for an MRI and/or CT scan by a physician at a specific facility, members will receive a call providing them information on other in-network facilities that offer the same imaging services, and how those facilities rank in terms of cost and quality so they can make an informed decision as to where they want to receive these services.”

We expressed a number of concerns about the program, especially the physician is unaware that their patient has been referred to a different facility. We are concerned that the unintended consequence is an intrusion into the physician patient relationship. We will continue to work with BCBSGa on this issue. Please let us know if you are having any problems with this program. BCBSGa’s press release can be found at [http://www.bcbsga.com/health-insurance/about-us/pressreleadedetails/GA/2012/967](http://www.bcbsga.com/health-insurance/about-us/pressreleadedetails/GA/2012/967).

**Tort Reform**
Last week, the Georgia Chamber of Commerce held a Civil Justice Forum and MAG was asked to present on the benefits of the 2005 tort reform package. Even though we lost the cap on non-economic damages in 2010, we explained to the participants that Georgia still has tort reform. In preparation for the presentation, we contacted MAG Mutual who provided some very useful statistics. For example, total statewide insurance premiums have decreased approximately 24%. MAG Mutual premiums have decreased 40% due to rate level reductions and increased competition. New claims are also down 25% in 2011 than in 2004. These are just a few benefits of SB3. Additionally, I want to thank MAG Mutual for providing this information for us to present at the Georgia Chamber of Commerce meeting.
MAG has entered into an exclusive member benefit with DocbookMD. DocbookMD is a HIPAA-compliant communication tool currently only accessible from a mobile device. As such, it can only be downloaded or used on your Apple or Android Smartphone or Tablet. DocbookMD is an application developed by physicians for physicians and only available to you if you are a member of MAG. For more information, please go to [http://www.mag.org/resources/endorsed-products](http://www.mag.org/resources/endorsed-products).

**Pain Management Rules**
The Georgia Composite Medical Board has released an updated FAQ on the pain management rules. The updated FAQ can be found at [http://medicalboard.georgia.gov/sites/medicalboard.georgia.gov/files/related_files/site_page/Updated%20FAQs%20Pain%20Management%20Rules.pdf](http://medicalboard.georgia.gov/sites/medicalboard.georgia.gov/files/related_files/site_page/Updated%20FAQs%20Pain%20Management%20Rules.pdf). In addition, MAG is working on a piece to further clarify the rules and it will be released in the near future.

**MAG Sponsored 401k Plan**
As you may recall from my previous update, MAG is moving forward with an association sponsored 401k plan. This plan will reduce your administrative overhead than what you pay on your current plan. In the process of moving forward, we need to set up a 401k Committee, whose responsibility will be to oversee the plan and the investments. We will obtain the appropriate insurance as well as the fidelity bonds. If you are interested in being a member of the 401k Committee, please email me directly. We are interested in physicians with an expertise in finance.

**Legal Resources**
I want to remind everyone of the tab on our website entitled Legal Resources. This page contains a number of resources, more importantly all the legal articles from the MAG Journal. It is password protected so you will need your password to access this information. It is a great resource providing information on the relevant legal issues. The link can be found at [http://www.mag.org/resources/legalresources](http://www.mag.org/resources/legalresources).

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

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