Dear all:

Please allow this to be an update of MAG’s activities since my last board update. As always, my past updates can be found at http://www.mag.org/resources/executive-directors-message, and please feel free to forward this message to others.

**Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services Credit Report Requests**

Please find attached a response from CMS regarding the complaint from a member who expressed concern that several physicians had noticed credit score checks by a subcontractor to CMS in conjunction with its automated provider screening procedures. MAG was concerned over the need for the credit checks. CMS stated they do not use the credit report as indicators for fraud and abuse in the provider enrollment determinations. For more information, please contact Susan Moore at smoore@mag.org.

**Georgia Department of Community Health**

Clyde Reese will become the new Commissioner of the Department of Community Health effective July 1. Outgoing commissioner David Cook will become Secretary of the Senate replacing Bob Ewing, who is retiring. More information can be found at http://gov.georgia.gov/press-releases/2013-05-30/deal-nominates-two-state-agency-leadership-positions.

**Guidelines to Review Managed Care Contract**

Please see the link to the new Guidelines to Review a Managed Care contract produced by Kevin Little, an attorney who represents MAG in a class action lawsuit. This is a great educational tool and can be found at http://50.62.72.123/sites/default/files/downloads/guidelines-review-contracts.pdf.

**Update on Retail Pharmacies and Prescriptions**

The issue of large retail pharmacies requiring more information when filling prescriptions for controlled substances is gaining national attention. We are working with the retail pharmacies, the American Medical Association, the Georgia Board of Pharmacy and the Georgia Pharmacy Association. Problems being reported around the country include the retail pharmacies refusing to fill the prescription without some of the following information: (i) the diagnosis code for the patient (ICD-9), not just the indication (such as “for low back pain”); (ii) whether the condition is chronic; and (iii) when the patient is going to be seen again.

In our conversations with the retail pharmacies about the reasons for these new requirements, we are told the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) was prompted to investigate the excessive quantities of controlled substances being distributed to four retail pharmacies by a large distributor. At the conclusion of the investigation, the DEA suspended the large distributor’s DEA registration. The DEA took action because of the lack of processes and systems to detect/flag suspicious “overprescribing” practices. Needless to say, we are advocating that these new requirements are burdensome for physicians, time consuming, have raised issues with the ability of electronic medical records systems to comply with the requirements, and do not appear to be supported in law. We will continue to make this issue a priority. For more information, please contact Susan Moore at smoore@mag.org.

**MAG Committee on Continuing Medical Education Appointment**

The Committee on Continuing Medical Education is a Special Committee of the Medical Association of Georgia and is charged with the responsibility of accrediting organizations that desire to provide accredited CME activities to Georgia physicians. The Committee on Continuing Medical Education reviews and approves applications for accreditation and reaccreditation, establishes accreditation policies, provides supervision and guidance to surveyors, holds training sessions for accredited CME providers and keeps all accredited CME providers updated concerning MAG, Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) and American Medical Association (AMA) policies related to CME. If you are interested in being a member of this committee, please contact Andrew Baumann at abaumann@mag.org.

**American Medical Association**

Please see the most recent AMA Advocacy Update, which includes an update on the SGR.
Georgia Chamber of Commerce
Please see the attached flyer regarding the Georgia Chamber Health Care Forum being held on June 19. Drs. Quinton Pirkle and Andrew Reisman will represent MAG as panelists.

American with Disabilities Act
In case you missed the forum with the Department of Justice and your obligation to the hearing impaired, the recording of the forum can be found at http://www.mag.org/news/articles/ada-call-recording.

If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to call. Have a great weekend.

Donald

Donald J. Palmisano, Jr.
Executive Director/CEO
Medical Association of Georgia
1849 The Exchange
Suite 200
Atlanta, Georgia 30339
678-303-9290 (Phone)
678-303-3732 (Fax)
404-312-9030 (Mobile)

The leading voice for the medical profession in Georgia...every physician in every specialty.