Dear all:

Please allow this to be an update of MAG activities since my last update. As always, my previous updates can be found at http://www.mag.org/resources/executive-directors-message and please feel free to forward this update to others. Of particular note, today is Day 40 of the General Assembly so please be on the lookout for any action alerts.

**Georgia Composite Medical Board**
The medical board is proposing new rules to address pain clinics. The Rules can be found at http://www.mag.org/news/articles/pain-clinic-rules. Please respond to Trish Yeatts at pyeatts@mag.org with any comments as soon as possible.

The medical board is also updating a rule that would provide for an Institutional License for physicians. We are currently reviewing this rule and would appreciate your input as to how this would impact the practice of medicine in your area. The rule can be found at http://medicalboard.georgia.gov/sites/medicalboard.georgia.gov/files/related_files/site_page/360-10-01InstPhy%20Rule2.pdf. Please respond to me on this issue. Our comments are due March 28 to the medical board.

**AMA National Advocacy Conference and SGR**
Last week, William Silver, MD (President), Manoj Shah, MD (President-Elect), John Antalis, MD (Past President) and myself attended the AMA National Advocacy Conference in Washington, DC. While there, we met with our congressional delegation urging them to support HR 4015/S 2000 that repeals the SGR and implements a new payment system for Medicare patients. The status of these bills continues to change daily. For more information, please go to http://www.mag.org/advocacy/issues/sgr and please follow our breaking news.

Please note we conducted a Town Hall on the SGR featuring Sidney Welch. To listen to the recording please go to http://www.mag.org/news/articles/sgr-townhall-recording.

**Telehealth CME**
We are co-sponsoring an event with the Georgia Partnership for Telehealth that will take place this weekend. We would encourage all physicians to attend. More information can be found at http://www.mag.org/news/articles/telemedicine-march22.

**MAG Alliance**
Miriam Eve Tidwell is a past county and state president for MAG Alliance and will once again, take on the challenge of current President of MAG Alliance. She has been re-purposed to look for ways to energize the spouses of the MAG physicians. She will be asking for the physician’s and spouses names and home addresses, phone numbers, email addresses and or anything you have to offer. She would also like to have the name and phone number if you have it of the physician recruiter for your area. Names and phone
number of the administrator of your local hospitals as well. Miriam Eve Tidwell's can be contacted at eve@evetidwell.com or 7063327115.

ICD-10
Organized medicine has been extremely vocal to our respective congressional delegations on the problems associated with the transition to ICD-10. Health and Human Services has responded with the need for "end testing." If you are interested in participating, please go to http://www.mag.org/news/articles/icd10-end-to-end.

Health Insurance Exchanges
As it has been well publicized, there are concerns with the health insurance exchanges and the "90 Day Rule." Essentially, an insured has 90 days to pay the premium for the new insurance policy. If an insured fails to pay the premium during that time period, the insurer would be responsible for the claim if treatment was rendered during days 0-30. Days 31-90 would then fall onto the physician or other healthcare provider. More information can be found at http://www.mag.org/news/articles/ppaca-grace-period and http://www.mag.org/news/articles/ama-ppaca-grace. We have met with the Commissioner of Insurance on this issue and are working with the AMA to address this issue at the federal level.

Recovery Audit Contractors
AMA is reporting that physicians will receive a "short reprieve" from recovery audit contractors until sometime in the fall. More information can be found at http://www.mag.org/news/articles/racs.

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

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