



TBGH

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## DISCOUNTED DUES!

Have a client or friend who isn't a member of TBGH?  
 Get them to join and list you as a referral and we'll **take 25% off your dues!**

## RENEW ONLINE FOR 2010 NOW!

## Programs Update



## December 3 Forum Recap...

The 5th Annual Value-Based Benefits & Wellness Forum on December 3 in Dallas was a resounding success. Nearly 400 healthcare and benefits stakeholders learned about innovative solutions from nationally recognized industry leaders. They also had the chance to learn about new and innovative products from 29 exhibitors. We look forward to seeing even greater attendance next year! Date and details coming soon...

If you attended and did not receive an email feedback survey, please click the link below and let us know how your experience was.  
<http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/?p=WEB229YXWBDS6H>

## DFWBGH Silver Jubilee Kick-Off Luncheon

**Date:** Tuesday, January 26, 2010

**Speaker:** Jack Mahoney, MD, CMO, Center for Health Value Innovation and Scientific Advisor, Pitney Bowes

**Location:** DoubleTree Hotel near the Galleria, Dallas

Do you keep hearing the terms Value-Based Insurance Design (VBID), Value-Based Purchasing (VBP), and Value-Based Pharmacy Design (VBPD) but aren't quite sure what they mean or how they might apply to you? Come hear Dr. Jack Mahoney explain the similarities and differences between the various forms of Value-Based Benefits Design to help you determine which is best for your company. He will also explain how to construct an effective program that will incentivize your

## NEW "MEMBERS ONLY" Website Coming Soon!

Stay Tuned for news on our new "Members Only" website featuring secure access to our:

- **Online Member Directory** (continuously updated)
- **Newsletters**
- **Member Networking Opportunities**
- **and much more...**

## Integrated Benefits Institute and National Business Coalition on Health's 2010 Health & Productivity Forum

When: February 8-10, 2010

Where: San Antonio, Texas

This unique learning environment will focus on an objective discussion and evaluation of the latest, practical approaches to investing in and promoting workforce health and productivity. Sessions will offer successful health and productivity interventions, research insights, case studies, and networking opportunities. For more information and to see the agenda, please visit  
[www.regonline.com/ibinbchforum2010](http://www.regonline.com/ibinbchforum2010).

## Quick Links

[TBGH](#)  
[PPHP](#)

employees and how to measure your return on investment. Join us on Tuesday, January 26, to learn the ins and outs of effective Value-Based Design and kick-off DFWBGH's 25th Anniversary!

**[REGISTER NOW!](#)**

## DFWBGH Diabetes Collaborative Update



### New Employee Engagement & Empowerment Program *Road Trip!* Destination: Peak Performance

DFWBGH continues to refine and package an employer-tested worksite program to educate and empower employees to be more responsible health care consumers. Alternate versions of the *Road Trip*, currently being tested by local employers, will ensure the program enjoys the greatest flexibility and applicability for a variety of businesses and employee groups when it rolls out for use by DFWBGH/TBGH member employers in mid-2010. The *Road Trip* is a key component of our multi-stakeholder collaboration with its focus on the demand side of health care via the consumer.

### Diabetes Care Reports

2008 diabetes claims data have been collected from the five DFW health plans participating in the PPHP, and are currently in the aggregation and review process. The PPHP will distribute Diabetes Care Reports on selected diabetes care metrics to nearly 1800 physicians in January 2010. These reports consolidate claims data across the five health plans to give physicians a broad view of the level of diabetes care their patients receive compared to regional levels of care.

### Transforming Diabetes Care Initiative

DFWBGH is researching quality initiatives and communication resources that are available within major physician groups in Dallas-Fort Worth. This study focuses on documenting and sharing best practices among physicians who treat diabetic patients.

### Second Anniversary PPHP Dinner Recap

The PPHP's Second Anniversary Dinner on November 17, brought together over 80 DFW healthcare stakeholders to celebrate a variety of partnership models and diabetes care initiatives springing up throughout the region. The dinner program, generously supported by **sanofi-aventis**, featured outstanding speakers, including **Dr. Ronald Goertz**, President, American Academy of Family Physicians, on the Patient-Centered Medical Home, as well as a presentation by **Dr. Seth Garber**, Physician Consultant, Mercer, and a Panel Discussion with **Karen Kennedy**, CAO, Medical Clinic of North Texas, and **Tricia Herschell**, Director of Benefits Strategy, American Airlines, moderated by **Joanne Wojcik**, Senior Editor, *Business Insurance*. Attendees actively participated in discussion and Q & A. Follow up comments have been overwhelmingly positive.

For more information on the PPHP and it's initiatives please visit <http://www.dfwbgh.org/partnership/index.htm>.

## New Resources

### Quality Dividend Calculator

*Quality health care keeps employees healthy and productive. Poor health*

***care can do just the opposite!***

The Quality Dividend Calculator estimates absenteeism, lost productivity and related expenses that result from a specific set of chronic conditions, including asthma, diabetes, heart disease and depression. The model shows how different plans can affect absenteeism and productivity, based on their performance in managing employee health. In the free, online version of the Quality Dividend Calculator, you can compare the estimated average impact of working with an NCQA-Accredited plan versus a non-accredited plan. Quantify your bottom-line savings at [www.ncqacalculator.com](http://www.ncqacalculator.com).

**URAC Workforce Development Toolkit**

URAC's new Workforce Development initiative offers consumers several free multi-media tools they can use to make better health care decisions, assume more "ownership" over their health care, and increase their ability to take on new behaviors to improve their health and the quality of care they receive. Included in this set of consumer resources is a free eLearning course, "Understanding Your Health Insurance." The course covers key areas including defining health insurance concepts; identifying the impact of rising health care costs; comparing the different types of health insurance plans; and defining important elements of health insurance, including prescription coverage, case management, and wellness.

To use the toolkit go to

<http://www.urac.org/consumers/resources/communicationtoolkit.aspx>

**Texas Health Market Review 2009 Findings**

Allen Baumgarten has released his tenth annual analysis of the Texas healthcare market. This new report benchmarks Texas HMO's against their counterparts on several key measures.

Here are some key findings:

\* Hospitals throughout the state are in the midst of a huge construction boom fueled by consecutive years of strong profits

Based on our analysis of state data for 2007, hospitals in the Dallas-Fort Worth area had net income of \$1.217 billion in 2007, or 10% of net patient revenues. Their average margin was 10.4% in 2006. Houston-area hospitals reported net income of \$898.4 million in 2007, an average margin of 7% of net patient revenues. That was higher than their 2006 net income of \$632 million.

\* **Despite their strong profitability, hospitals face significant risks going forward.**

As unemployment grows in Texas, fewer people have health insurance and those that do often pay high deductibles. This is reducing utilization at a time when hospital capacity is expanding. Hospitals also face high costs for credit and lower returns on their investments, often an important source of profitability.

\* **After years of decline, HMO enrollment in Texas has grown in the past three years. However, employers are still leaving HMOs and the growth has come from Medicaid, CHIP and Medicare Advantage plans.**

Enrollment in Texas HMOs increased by 3.9% in 2008 and 7% in 2007. However, enrollment of employer groups continues to decrease, as employers seek plans that are less comprehensive and require addition cost-sharing by enrollees. The state has expanded its use of HMOs for the Medicaid and CHIP programs, and more seniors, especially in Houston, are choosing Medicare HMOs.

\* **Texas HMOs have enjoyed strong and growing profits in the last four years.**

Texas HMOs reported net income of \$449.6 million in 2008, or 4.4% of underwriting revenues of \$10.156 billion. In 2008, Medicare Advantage plans were the most profitable, reporting \$387.6 million in underwriting profits.

For information about ordering copies of the report, published this year as an interactive PDF, go to <http://www.AllanBaumgarten.com>.

### **New Performance Data on Hospitals and States**

[WhyNotTheBest.org](http://WhyNotTheBest.org) has been updated with the latest performance data on the process-of-care and hospital patient experience measures that are publicly reported by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Users of the site can conduct side-by-side comparisons of 4,500 hospitals nationwide, track performance over time against numerous benchmarks, and download tools to improve health care quality. The site now includes two new case studies of top-performing hospitals that examines innovative surgical care improvement strategies.

The site also features a new *State Scorecard on Health System Performance, 2009*, which provides comparative performance data on the state level-including measures of access, quality, avoidable hospitalizations, and costs.

## **National Health Care Reports\***

### **Getting High Quality Care**

#### **The Communication Toolkit: Using Information to Get High Quality Care-FREE!**

The National Business Group on Health (NBGH), California Healthcare Foundation (CHCF), and the American Institutes for Research (AIR) announced a new Web site featuring a free, research-based, customizable health care communication resource guide for employers and unions. This resource guide is intended to support efforts to encourage employees to assume ownership of their health and make better health decisions.

The Communication Toolkit: Using Information to Get High Quality Care can be found at <http://www.businessgrouphealth.org/usinginformation>.

### **H1N1 Influenza Guidance for Small Businesses**

The Department of Homeland Security, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Small Business Administration have developed guidance to help small businesses understand what impact a new influenza virus, like novel H1N1 flu, might have on their operations, and how important it is to have a written plan to use as a guide through a pandemic or other emergency situation. Downloadable and available at

<http://www.flu.gov/professional/business/smallbiz.html>.

### **National Health Reform Information Resources**

The American Benefits Council (ABC), of which NBCH is a member, has updated its side-by-side comparison of the Senate bill to the House of Representatives bill, the Affordable Health Care for America Act (H.R. 3962).

To access the comparative chart, go to:

[http://www.americanbenefitscouncil.org/documents/hcr\\_sideby-side-compchart112509.pdf](http://www.americanbenefitscouncil.org/documents/hcr_sideby-side-compchart112509.pdf)

ABC also is maintaining a helpful list of priority employer issues, outlining alternative approaches to many of the provisions in the Senate bill. To access this information, please go to:

[http://www.americanbenefitscouncil.org/documents/hcr\\_priorityissues113009.pdf](http://www.americanbenefitscouncil.org/documents/hcr_priorityissues113009.pdf)

Quick summaries of important reform legislative provisions and comparisons can be found at both Kaiser Family Foundation and The Commonwealth Funds' websites:

<http://healthreform.kff.org/>

<http://www.commonwealthfund.org/>.

As always, please contact NBCH's Government Affairs Committee staff person, Kelli Moler Peadar ([kmoler@nbch.org](mailto:kmoler@nbch.org)) with any questions you may have.

\*This information provided by the National Business Coalition on Health.  
For more information please visit [www.nbch.org](http://www.nbch.org).

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