

KMGMA

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Thoughts
From the
President.....1

Saying
Good-bye
to a leader
and friend.....1/3

Anthem/
Blue Cross
Decision
Vacated.....2

KMGMA
Insurance
Committee
Information.....2

Fall 2002
Conference.....2

Legislative
Action Alert.....4

New
Members.....3

Officers &
Chairs.....3

"I am impressed
with the
resiliency and
perseverance of
the members of
KMGMA..."
-Ann Buess

SAYING GOOD-BYE TO A LEADER AND FRIEND - JINNY FREEMAN

Many of us heard the news at the KMGMA spring conference in Wichita that Steve Perkins, the chief executive director of the Wichita Clinic, was to resign on July 7th. Steve joined the Wichita Clinic in 1985. During his tenure the clinic has grown from 66 doctors and two locations to 160 doctors and 14 locations. (article con't on page 3)

Thoughts From the President

- Ann Buess



A fond hello to all.

Whew, this is an interesting and challenging time in which Medicare reimbursement, malpractice insurance, HIPPA, and the stock market are all on the list of many things that weigh on our minds and can wear us down. There doesn't seem to be final answers that make these issues disappear, yet we keep at it, day by day. I am impressed with the resiliency and perseverance of the members of KMGMA, people of integrity, commitment, and dedication. This is true now and has been for many years.

Those of you who know me personally know that I am a bit of a fitness nut and have been doing some triathlon training for

the past several months, so I was naturally thrilled at the title of the conference, "Managing the Medical Triathlon". Sometimes it's a real accomplishment to keep going, to not give in to the desire or to just call it quits. One thing about healthcare, it teaches us all that challenges keep coming. But so do the rewards, especially knowing that we are doing what we can to make a difference and enjoying the friendship we build along the way.

Many thanks to the members who attended the conference in April, and to the officers, Board, and committee members for all you do. I can't wait to see you in September in Overland Park. We're going to have a great conference.

REMINDER:

Medicare New PO BOX #: PO BOX 3543

Fall 2002 Conference on Sept. 19-20

"The purpose of the KMGMA Insurance Committee is to work on behalf of the members of KMGMA to obtain equitable solutions to questions and problems with third party payers."

KMGMA Insurance Committee

- Carolyn Payne

The insurance committee has adopted a Mission Statement: "The purpose of the KMGMA Insurance Committee is to work on behalf of the members of KMGMA to obtain equitable solutions to questions and problems with third party payers."

Medicare has established a new Post Office Box to help avoid lost records and delays. The new address is: PO Box 3543. Please use this address for anything going to Medicare.

The Kansas Insurance Department has put out a brochure that outlines the Kansas Prompt Pay Act. You can obtain a copy at www.ksinsurance.org.

Medicaid Issues:

- 1 Effective 7/1/02 they will again be issuing MONTHLY CARDS. Those with Firstguard will continue to have the plastic card PLUS the paper monthly card.
- 2 EDS has a one year arrangement with BCBS, which should make claim submission a seamless process...we'll see.
- 3 The EDS program is to be web based.
- 4 EDS is filing the one year extension for HIPAA. This will make PICS and PACS available for an additional year.
- 5 Effective 7/1/02 selected immunizations for adults will be covered. Some of the covered immunizations are: Hepatitis A and B and MMR.
- 6 There is a new screen on PICS to show diagnosis.

I want to thank KMGMA Insurance Committee members for all of their hard work and effort they put into this committee on behalf of the members of KMGMA. Anyone wanting to join this very active committee would be welcome....the more we have the better we can serve.

Managing the Medical Triathlon: Fall 2002 Conference

The Fall Conference will be held on September 19-20 at the Overland Park Marriott. The featured speakers are Jason Womack, M. Ed. and Sara M. Larch, MS, FACMPE.

Jason Womack has been a featured keynote speaker on the topic of individual and team productivity for several national organizations. He holds four teaching credentials in the State of California and a master's degree in Education.

Sara M. Larch, MS, FACMPE is the chair of the MGMA Board of Directors. She has over 20 years of medical group practice experience in single and multispecialty groups of small and large size. She has a master's degree in health sciences administration from Virginia Commonwealth University.



Anthem/Blue Cross

Decision Vacated

- Jerry Slaughter

The Shawnee County District Court Judge, Terry Bullock, vacated Insurance

Commissioner

Kathleen Sebelius' ruling which denied the acquisition of Blue Cross by Anthem. This ruling leaves the Insurance

Commissioner with two options: 1) appeal his ruling to the Court of Appeals, and ultimately Kansas Supreme Court, or 2) reopen the record and conduct further

hearings on the acquisition. It is quite likely that we may need to continue our active involvement as intervenors in this case as it moves into the next phase. The full ruling on this case may be downloaded from the Shawnee County

New Members

Fall, 2001 thru August of 2002

Stephanie Leibengood, Allied
Ruth Cornwall, Allied
Rhonda Ediger, Individual
Brenda Edwards, Individual
Pat Barker, Individual
Margaret Gaston, Individual
Kelly Oakes, Individual
Charlene Fagen, Individual
Shelia Richmeier, Individual
Mary Ann Elliot, Individual
Bertha Brungardt, Individual
Connie Ruyle, Individual
Sheri Smith, Individual
Mary Lou Goertzen, Individual
Kathy Merkley, Individual
Chris Sandoval, Individual
Brenda Ronqkawit, Individual
Janet Enlow, Individual
Julie Kochsmeier, Individual
Cindy Martling, Individual
Kecia Kesler, Allied
Jean Johnson, Individual
Sonya Herbers, Individual
Michelle Willson, Individual
Lisa McDonell, Individual
Darita Hendrixson, Individual
Darla Fisher, Individual
Sandy Tracy, Individual
Angela Cunningham, Individual
Marsha Oliver, Individual
Nancy Apel, Individual

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SAYING GOOD-BYE TO A LEADER AND FRIEND

(Continued from page 1)

Steve joined KMGMA in 1986 and served on the executive board for several years and was the KMGMA President in 1996-1997.

For many of us Steve was a mentor and friend. When a problem or question would arise you could pick up the telephone and Steve or a member of the administrative staff at the Wichita Clinic would

usually have the answer or solution. The Wichita Clinic has always been supportive of KMGMA and many of our past-presidents are on the administrative staff of the Wichita Clinic.

Steve will be greatly missed in Kansas. To Steve and his wife, Pam we wish you the very best in your Colorado home.

*Kansas Medical
Group Management
Association*

KMGMA



"The achievements of an organization are the result of the combined effort of each individual."

- Vincent T. Lombardi

Members Wanted

Get the most out of your membership by joining one of the committee's. It is an opportunity to meet new friends as well as assist the organization in providing information to our members regarding the most recent issues and changes in health care. Select the committee you are most interested in and contact the committee chairperson.

House Passes Medicare Payment Fix

Thanks to your efforts, on Friday, June 28th, the House of Representative passed HR 495, the Medicare Modernization and the Prescription Drug Act of 2002 by a vote of 221 to 208. This bill is a step in the right direction to fix the Medicare physician payment crisis.

This bill provides a 6% increase in Medicare physician payments over the next three years rather

than the 14.2% cut projected under current law and allocates \$21.3 billion over five years to prevent additional reductions in the Medicare conversion factor.

The House passed Medicare package also includes regulatory relief provisions and addresses geographic disparities in Medicare physician payments.

Efforts should now be focused on the Senate to

ensure that a reasonable physician payment fix is passed in that chamber.

Call your Senator today at:

(800)833-6354 to let them know how you feel about passage of this legislation.

To find out who your senator is visit:

www.senate.gov.