

THE MAGNET™



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GEORGIA'S SOURCE FOR IMPORTANT PHYSICIAN INFORMATION

Risk Management & Patient Safety Dept. Tips

Scam Alert!

An alert from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has been issued for physician offices. Perpetrators are sending faxes to physician offices posing as the Medicare Insurance Provider or Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) instructing physician staff to respond to a questionnaire providing account information within 48 hours to avoid a lapse in Medicare payments.

Be wary of this practice and confirm requests with your contractor using contact information they previously provided before submitting any information. Medicare providers should only send information to a Medicare contractor using the address found in the download section of the CMS.gov website found at:

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNGenInfo> or

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MedicareProviderSupEnroll> ☞

Claims Committees – Physicians' Advocate, Ally

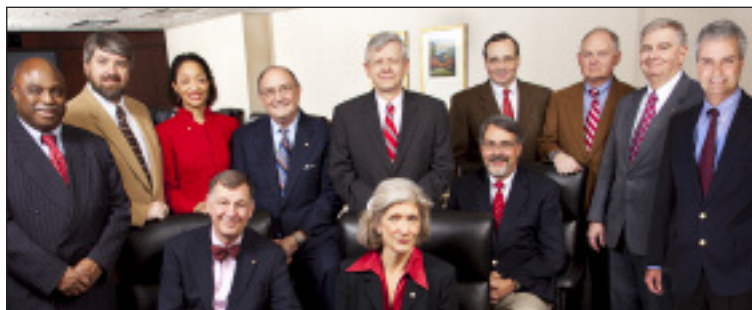
In the summer of 1982, MAG Mutual's first Physician Claims Committee was formed with the main goals being aggressive claims management and defense of physicians. Chairman of the Board, **Dr. Roy W. Vandiver** explains why the Company is so rigorous with our defense of physicians. "From the very beginning, we decided as a company that we were going to do everything possible to defend our policyholders to the end. These are not only reputations and careers we're defending, but they're our friends and neighbors – that sentiment is reflected in every decision we make."

Matt Mitcham, Sr. Vice President of Claims explains further. "We're recognized as one of a few medical liability insurers that provides local, experienced and superior claims management and legal defense. Our physician-led Board, six state and regional Claims Committees, expert local Defense Attorneys and hands-on Claims staff are all part of an amazing process that I'm proud to say really puts our physicians first."

Your Georgia Claims Committees are pictured below. For a closer look at all of our Claims Committees, go to www.MAGMutual.com and select Our Company, Leadership, Claims Committees. ☞



Georgia Claims Committee A Seated L-R: Joseph S. Wilson, Jr., M.D. – Atlanta; E. Daniel DeLoach, M.D., Committee Chairman – Savannah; and William C. Collins, M.D. – Atlanta.
Standing L-R: David T. Stewart, Jr., M.D. – Tallahassee, FL; Benjamin H. Cheek, M.D. – Columbus; W. Scott Bohlke, M.D. – Statesboro; W. Matt Mitcham, Senior Vice President, Claims – Atlanta; – Jacksonville, FL; John B. Neeld, Jr., M.D. – Atlanta; John S. Antalis, M.D. – Dalton; and Andrew B. Oliver, M.D. – Washington, NC.



Georgia Claims Committee B Seated L-R: Ralph L. Haynes, M.D.* – Atlanta; Catherine S. Andrews, M.D., Committee Chairwoman – Kennesaw; and J. Price Corr, Jr., M.D. – Albany.
Standing L-R: Willie Adams, Jr., M.D. – Albany; Michael E. Greene, M.D. – Macon; Sheila A. Robinson, M.D. – Atlanta; Roy W. Vandiver, M.D., Board of Directors Chairman – Atlanta; J. Daniel Hanks, Jr., M.D., F.A.C.R. – Rome; Michael J. Bono, M.D., F.A.C.E.P. – Norfolk, VA; H. Alexander Easley, III, M.D. – Washington, NC; Joseph W. Griffin, Jr., M.D. – Augusta; and Michael R. Tamucci, Jr., Vice President, Claims – Atlanta *Leave-of Absence in Germany, July 2009.



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Especially if you have all of your insurance – auto, home and personal umbrella – under one, easy to understand policy with a company you know and trust! MAG Mutual Insurance Agency (MMIA) can provide you with custom-tailored coverage you can't find anywhere else. We do this through long-term relationships with trusted and financially stable national insurers. When you have a claim or a question you make one call – to your MMIA representative – and we take it from there! To find out more, call **Donna Freeman** at **1-800-295-5120** for a free, no-obligation review of your current personal insurance coverage or visit

www.MAGMutual.com/insurance/home-auto.html

A- (Excellent) Rating Reaffirmed

We are pleased to announce that the A.M. Best Company has again assigned us an A- (Excellent) rating with a "Stable Outlook" for the future.

The A.M. Best rating was based on 2008 financials and cited MAG Mutual's capitalization, operating profitability and favorable loss reserve development. The A.M. Best Company is a leading insurance rating organization whose ratings are recognized worldwide as a benchmark for assessing insurers' financial strength.

The A- (Excellent) rating is assigned only to select companies that have an excellent ability to meet their ongoing obligations to policyholders. ☑

Legal Brief

Reminder: Patient Privacy Rights Survive Death

By now, everyone has read, seen, or at least heard about the stories of pop star, Michael Jackson's former nurse. She has been talking to various media outlets about the requests that Mr. Jackson made to her for the drug Diprivan. The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) is a mandatory regulation for the privacy of patients. The recent media coverage warrants this reminder that HIPAA rules apply to nurses, physicians and all medical staff; and the obligations of HIPAA survive a patient's death.

We must also remember that even though a person is a celebrity, he or she still has a right for their medical care to be kept private. The status of the patient in the public-eye does not change a provider's obligations to adhere to HIPAA guidelines. Summarily, a deceased patient's executor or administrator (someone who is legally authorized to act on the behalf of the deceased patient) is the only person who can release the privacy rights of a patient. ☑

Auf wiedersehen!

Long-time Board of Director, **Dr. Ralph L. Haynes** (pictured in Claims Committee B on page 1), is taking a sabbatical of sorts from his very active clinical medicine practice in Atlanta. But Dr. Haynes isn't taking time off to write his memoir. He is journeying to join the medical staff at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center (LRMC) in Landstuhl, Germany. A tri-service, full-service facility; the LRMC is our largest Military hospital outside of the U.S., and receives soldiers from Iraq and Afghanistan and is the referral center for all military personnel and their dependents in Europe, the UK, Africa and other countries.

His wife, Patricia is along for the journey and will work in the Women's Clinic, leaving her post as Medical Director at Planned Parenthood of Georgia. They will be near their youngest son, Walter as he serves as an infantry lieutenant and platoon leader in the 82nd Airborne.

The Haynes' latest adventure should last one –two years, whereupon return, he will resume his activities as a MAG Mutual Board of Director. We wish he and his family well and look forward to their speedy return! ☑

A.M. Best Continues MAG Mutual's A- (Excellent) Rating with Stable Outlook for 2009



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MAG Mutual Insurance Co.
P.O. Box 52979
Atlanta, GA 30355-0979

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