

# THE MAGNET™



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YOUR 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."

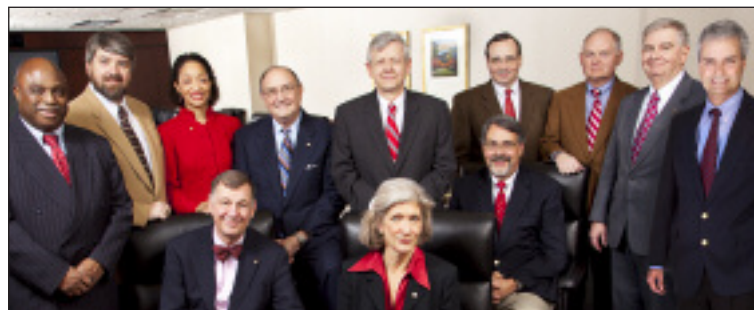
**Mike Tamucci**, Vice President, Claims, explains further."

Our first priority is to look after the well-being of our physician insureds. We're recognized as one of a handful of medical liability insurers that provides local, experienced and superior claims management and legal defense. Our physician-led Board, state and regional Claims Committees, expert local Defense Attorneys and hands-on Claims staff are all part of an amazing process that takes a lot of stress off the physicians."

Your Regional Claims Committees are pictured below. For a closer look at all of MAG Mutual's Claims Committees, go to [www.MAGMutual.com](http://www.MAGMutual.com) and select Our Company, Leadership, Claims Committees. ☞



**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.



**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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[www.MAGMutual.com/insurance/home-auto.html](http://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. ☑

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. ☑

Free Risk Management Seminars for  
Physicians and Mid-level Providers

**Situation Awareness in Healthcare:  
Your Key to Improved Performance & Minimized Risks**

**Thursday, September 17, 2009 – Huntsville, AL  
Embassy Suites**

800 Monroe Street

**Speaker:** Walter Kurtz, President, Corporate Aces

**Tuesday, September 29, 2009 - Birmingham, AL  
The Harbert Center**

2019 Fourth Ave North, Suite 100

**Speaker:** Scott Turner, CEO, Corporate Aces

To sign up for a seminar, go to: [www.MAGMutual.com/seminars](http://www.MAGMutual.com/seminars) or for more information contact: Cleveland Williams at **1-800-294-5384**. ☑

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



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