



# THE MAGNET™

VOL. 29 NO. 2 - 2011  
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NORTH CAROLINA'S SOURCE FOR IMPORTANT PHYSICIAN INFORMATION

5400 Trinity Road, Suite 202 | Raleigh, North Carolina 27607 | 1-866-798-5281

## Record \$16.5 Million Dividend Approved

We are pleased to announce that MAG Mutual's management team has recommended, and your physician-led Board of Directors approved, **the largest single-year policyholder dividend distribution in company history.**

Beginning June 1, 2011, **\$16.5 million** will be returned to eligible MAG Mutual Physician and Surgeon Professional Liability Insurance policyholders of record as of the close of business April 1, 2011. This means MAG Mutual's policyholders will have received **\$61.5 million** in dividends from June 2007 through May 2012.

**This is the fifth year in a row a dividend has been declared. Your physician-owned company now has made distributions in 13 of the last 17 years, totaling \$93 million.** Few medical professional liability insurers can match this record for consistently returning dividends to their policyholders and, **effectively reducing the annual cost of your insurance.**

Your dividend will be based on the number of years you've been insured with MAG Mutual and the premium amount paid. Beginning with policies renewing on June 1, 2011, we will apply the total dividend amount as a credit on each renewal policy. For eligible policyholders who do not renew their policy, the dividend will be applied to any outstanding balance or paid by check.

Your Board of Directors and all of MAG Mutual's employees thank you for your loyalty and trust. If you have any questions, please call **1-800-282-4882**. ☑

## Be Sure to Vote!

Watch for Your Annual Meeting Proxy and 2010 Annual Report in Early June!

## Risk Management & Patient Safety Dept. Tips

### Lawsuits, Drug Labels and Free CME

There are some simple things that can help physicians protect themselves from medical liability lawsuits. Here is one of them:

According to PDR Network, roughly 30% of medical liability suits include drug-related aspects in the complaint. In those cases, the then-current FDA-approved drug labeling is most often the standard to which physicians or other prescribers are held by the courts.

This does not mean that off-label prescribing is in itself a cause of legal action, but physicians are well advised to know the details of the FDA-approved labeling for the drugs that they prescribe, on-label or off. As a recent White Paper on prescribing liability explained, "a physician's first reading of the full FDA-approved drug label should not occur during trial prep." See [www.pdr.net/edu/2011JanWhitePaper.pdf](http://www.pdr.net/edu/2011JanWhitePaper.pdf).

More than 25% of drugs have a material labeling change annually, from new warnings to changes in dosing or indications, according to PDR Network, the leading distributor of drug labeling information. Frequent review of the FDA-approved labeling for drugs commonly prescribed is important to clinical accuracy as well as liability protection.

Working with the nation's liability carriers, PDR Network's "Know the Label" program offers a drug alerts service and provides free CME for physicians who read the current FDA-approved drug labeling and answer drug-specific questions.

To review current FDA-approved labeling for the drugs that you prescribe and earn free CME credits, go to:

[www.magmutual.pdr.net](http://www.magmutual.pdr.net). ☑

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Because your patients come first.

INSURANCE • FINANCIAL SERVICES  
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## In Practice. In Life.

### Special Savings on Disability Insurance Income Protection for MAG Mutual Policyholders

MAG Mutual Financial Services, LLC, through our alliance with Principal Financial Group®, can help protect your income for less. Principal offers Disability Income Protection Insurance\* with savings up to 20% specifically for MAG Mutual policyholders. And, female physicians can save even more.

Our disability protection offerings include:

- Individual Disability Income – Keeping a roof over your head
- Overhead Expense – Keeping your business doors open
- Disability Buy-Out - Keeping your business investment intact
- Disability Income Retirement Security – Keeping your retirement secure

For more information, call **Carroll Curry**, toll-free, at **1-866-261-2497**. [☞](#)

*\*Insurance issued by Principal Life Insurance Company. Securities and advisory products offered through Princor Financial Corporation, 1-800-247-4123, member NASD, SIPC. Principal Life and Princor are members of the Principal Financial Group (The Principal), Des Moines, IA 50392-2080. MAG Mutual is not an affiliate of any member of the Principal Financial Group and does not offer any securities or advisory products*

## Service Animals: Your New Obligations Per the ADA

Some physicians have recently expressed concerns about service animals entering their medical facilities. There are factors to consider in treating a patient with a service animal. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) provides that an individual with a disability who uses a service animal has the same right of access to areas of a public accommodation as members of the public, program participants, and invitees.

Under new ADA rules, implemented in early March, the definition of a “service animal” includes dogs individually trained to perform work or tasks to benefit the individual with a disability, including physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disabilities. Other species of animals – whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained – no longer qualify.

The Department of Justice (DOJ) further states that a healthcare facility must permit a person with a disability to be accompanied by a service animal in all areas of the facility in which that person would otherwise be allowed. However, there are exceptions. For example, the DOJ incorporates guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on the use of service animals in a hospital setting since zoonotic diseases can be transmitted to humans.

Per CDC guidelines, it is generally appropriate to exclude a service animal from limited-access areas with general infection-control measures, such as operating rooms and burn units. A service animal may accompany patients to areas such as admission, discharge offices, emergency rooms, inpatient and outpatient rooms, and cafeterias.

Although the ADA provides accessibility requirements for people with service animals, if you have reservations about treating these patients, speak with your legal counsel. [☞](#)

## NC Family Physician of the Year

**Jesse Pittard, MD**, a family physician from Smithfield, was named the 2010 North Carolina Family Physician of the year during the NCAFP Winter Meeting last December in Asheville. The annual award is given to an NCAFP member who embraces the key tenets of family medicine and whose work demonstrates an unwavering commitment to patients, community and the advancement of the profession.

MAG Mutual Risk Management and Patient Safety Consultant Sheila Elliott visited Dr. Pittard’s practice, Horizon Family Medicine, to congratulate him. We join her in commending Dr. Pittard. [☞](#)

## Record policyholder dividend declared. See inside.



**MAG MUTUAL®**  
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**We serve.**

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

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