



THE MAGNET™



MAY/JUNE 2007
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VIRGINIA'S SOURCE FOR IMPORTANT PHYSICIAN INFORMATION

MAG Mutual Delivers Dividend!

2007 marks our 25th anniversary of serving physicians, so the timing couldn't be better for us to announce that we are again distributing dividends to our physician policyholders.

Beginning June 1, \$10 million will be returned to eligible MAG Mutual Physicians and Surgeons Professional Liability policyholders of record as of the close of business April 1, 2007.

The dividend amount will be based on the number of years insured with MAG Mutual and the amount of insurance premium. For the majority of physicians, dividends will be 3% of the subject medical professional liability insurance premium. The minimum dividend is 2%.

Beginning with policies renewing on June 1, 2007, we will automatically apply the dividend as a credit on your renewal policy. For eligible policyholders who retire or do not renew their policy, the dividend will be applied to any outstanding balance or provided to them by check.●

New Resource Guide Details Medicare's Quality Reporting Program

Medicare's Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI) offers financial incentives to eligible professionals to participate in a voluntary quality reporting program. Those who successfully report quality measures on claims between July 1 and Dec. 31, 2007 may earn a bonus payment.

To help practice managers understand the program, MAG Mutual Healthcare Solutions, Inc. is offering *Medicare's PQRI and Beyond*. The book provides easy-to-read and -understand information that assists managers in their decision to participate in the program, and it explains how to implement the program.

Those who purchase *Medicare's PQRI and Beyond* will receive a CD and access to MMHSI's PQRI Web site. To place your order, visit us online at www.coderscentral.com or call us toll free at **1-888-738-7485.●**

Risk Management Tips

When Medications Are Withdrawn from the Market ...

Earlier this month, Novartis advised physicians that at the request of the Food and Drug Administration, it was suspending U.S. marketing and sales of Zelnorm, (tegaserod maleate), a treatment for irritable bowel syndrome with constipation and chronic constipation. Physicians who have prescribed this medication or **any** medication recalled or withdrawn from the market would be prudent to establish simple and proactive plans of response. In addition to discontinuing prescriptions, physicians may consider the following general recommendations:

1. Identify patients who have been prescribed the drug and determine the clinically appropriate responses for their particular medical condition, including factors like the length of time the patient has taken the drug.
2. Post notices in the waiting room and, if feasible, contact affected patients by letter to inform them of the drug's withdrawal.
3. Develop a follow-up protocol and ask patients to contact you for alternative medications or treatments, as appropriate.
4. Physicians, nurses and physician's assistants or other qualified personnel should be trained and utilized to respond to patient inquiries.
5. Place an on-hold message on your phone system regarding the recall.
6. Refer patients to the manufacturer's Web site, in this case www.novartis.com or the FDA at www.fda.gov, for detailed information.

(Continued on page 2)



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Character Counts When Buying Transcription Services

With MAG Mutual Healthcare Solution Inc.'s transcription services, medical practices can rest assured that they are receiving accurate line counts and pricing. Our transcription services are endorsed by the American Hospital Association. We also verify our line counts using an industry-leading audit tool.

One practice recently saved more than \$300,000 a year by using MMHSI transcription services, proving that how we count matters.

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That's the kind of character that counts. To learn more about our transcription services, visit us online at www.magmutual.com/hsi or call toll free at 1-888-217-2104. ●

*Need an interesting speaker?
MAG Mutual's Speaker Bureau can help. Contact Steve Davis at
1-800-282-4882.*

(Physician Recommendations for Medications Withdrawn from the Market, continued from page 1)

If a patient alleges you were in any way negligent by prescribing any withdrawn medication, please contact MAG Mutual Insurance Company's Claims Department at 1-800-282-4882. ●

*MAG Mutual does not presume to establish any standard of care or establish rules for the practice of medicine. The particular patient-care strategies or range of patient-care strategies mentioned in this article should be tempered by the physician's judgement.

New Virginia Laws

Virginia has recently enacted new legislation which may affect you and your practice:

- 1. HB 1963** - authorizes licensed physician assistants to prescribe Schedule II through VI controlled substances and devices on and after July 1, 2007.
- 2. HB 2037** - authorizes properly trained personnel who are acting pursuant to a specific order for a patient and under a doctor's direct and immediate supervision to administer controlled substances, provided the method does not include intravenous, intrathecal or epidural administration and the doctor remains responsible for the administration.
- 3. HB 2520** - provides that healthcare entities may disclose certain patient health information (e.g., name and address of person, date and place of birth, social security number, blood type, type of injury sustained by person, date and time of treatment received, date and time of death, and a description of distinguishing physical characteristics) to law enforcement officers for the purpose of identifying or locating a suspect, fugitive, person required to register with the Sex Offender and Crimes Against Minors Registry, material witness or missing person. The law also protects healthcare providers from breach of privacy claims when providing healthcare information to law enforcement regarding a death if a healthcare entity has a suspicion that the death may have resulted from criminal conduct and in situations where the healthcare entity believes that the information disclosed constitutes evidence of a crime that occurred on its premises.
- 4. HB 3061** - requires healthcare practitioners to order a lab to send lab results directly to a patient or legal guardian when requested by the patient or legal guardian except when, in the professional opinion of the healthcare practitioner, there is a medical reason not to do so. ●

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