



TBGH e-News

SPRING 2009

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**NEW MEMBER:
WELCOME TO
TBGH!**

Cameron
International Corp,
Houston

**RENEW YOUR
MEMBERSHIP FOR
2009 TODAY!**

Don't want to hassle
with the mail? [CLICK
HERE TO RENEW
ONLINE](#)

SAVE THE DATE!!
Planning is under way for our
**5th Annual Wellness Forum &
Vendor Fair**. It will be held on
Thursday December 3rd, 2009 at
the Westin Park Central Dallas.
Stay tuned for further details!

Don't Miss Our May 28th Luncheon Program! [REGISTER ONLINE TODAY!](#)

**A View from Inside the Beltway --
Strategic Insights for 2010 Benefits Planning**
11:30am-1:30pm
The Houstonian
111 North Post Oak Lane
Houston, TX 77024

Join us on May 28th for a stimulating discussion of key issues that define the current health reform debate, and the implications for various industry stakeholders. Our speaker, **Jonathan Topodas**, an expert on federal health legislation and regulation, has met with President Obama and his healthcare team for high level discussions of health care reform ideas and solutions. He will bring important insights about what reform actions are likely, doable and affordable in the near future.

As always, TBGH luncheon programs provide excellent opportunities to build relationships with peers and industry experts to enhance your job performance and further your personal and professional goals.

Don't forget- TBGH membership is company-wide, so anyone at your company can take advantage of this great learning and networking opportunity at the **discounted member rate of only \$30**.

[CLICK HERE](#) to register online now!

DFWBGH Diabetes Collaborative Update Partnership for Peak Healthcare Performance

The Dallas-Fort Worth Business Group on Health, TBGH's chapter in Dallas, has mailed quality reports to nearly 1,300 physicians in DFW showing their individual performance in treating diabetes patients in 2007. The Diabetes Care Reports are a first for the DFW community,

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[TBGH](#)

region and state because they report at the individual physician level and are based on standardized quality measures aggregated across 5 major health plans. To view the press release [click here](#).

DFWBGH has also launched a new website for it's Partnership project www.dfwbgh.org/partnership in tandem with the mailing of physician reports. The website features comprehensive information about the PPHP project, plus tailored sections for physicians, employers and consumers/patients, each containing useful tools and resources for improving health care quality from each stakeholder's perspective.

DFWBGH has also rolled out the first beta test of a new worksite consumer engagement program, at one of its member companies. The program, called *Road Trip-- Destination: Peak Performance!*, will be tested at 3 additional members' worksites during June and July. The program is funded with a grant from Aetna Foundation. Also incorporated in the program is a Consumer Communication Toolkit developed by the American Institutes for Research, thanks to NBCH's introduction of this toolkit to coalition members. DFWBGH plans to make this new program available to all TBGH members as a value-added benefit of membership in our coalition.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information on the PPHP, including the new worksite consumer engagement program.

MEMBER RESOURCES

Texas Coalition for Worksite Wellness

The Texas Coalition for Worksite Wellness' mission is to improve the health status of the Texas workforce by increasing the number of Texas businesses that incorporate employee prevention, wellness and value-based benefit design into their corporate business and health care strategies.

To find out more visit <http://www.txworksitewellness.org/newsletters>.

Diabetes at Work

Diabetes at Work is a web site developed by the National Diabetes Education Program (NDEP) as a free, easy-to-use tool that helps businesses identify the potential impact of diabetes in their workplace and provides resources for creating education programs. NDEP is a joint initiative of CDC's Division of Diabetes Translation's Program Development Branch, and the National Institutes of Health.

For more information please visit <http://www.diabetesatwork.org>.

Wellness, Disease, and Care Management Toolkit

DMAA and the National Association of Manufacturers have developed this important resource to assist employers in the adoption and application of wellness, prevention, and disease and care management programs to improve health care quality and outcomes for employees and dependents and to reduce direct and indirect costs.

Visit our website resource page at <http://www.tbgh.org/resources.htm> to view this comprehensive toolkit and other great benefits tools.

Institute for Health and Productivity Management

The Employer Roadmap offers decision makers a guide to making employee health an integral part of their human capital management strategy by investing to improve its "asset" value. It is "A Roadmap for Improving the Health of Your Employees and Your Organization," issued by the Change Agent Work Group (CAWG), a collaborative of thought leaders and influencers in the employer health arena working to accelerate improvement in the health and productivity of the American

work force. To learn more and download this informative employer guide visit <http://www.ihpm.org>.

Leapfrog Update

2008 Survey Results

The results of Leapfrog's 2008 Patient Safety survey reveal that there have been improvements in patient safety and quality care in hospitals across the country, including Texas. Clearly, the hospitals are making great efforts - but, as noted by Leapfrog's CEO Leah Binder, they are not what should be expected from the most expensive health care system in the world.

A majority of the hospitals have significant safety and efficiency deficits, among them:

- Relatively low percentages of reporting hospitals are fully meeting volume- and risk-adjusted mortality standards, or adhering to nationally endorsed process measures for eight high-risk procedures.
- Efficiency standards-defined as highest quality and lowest resource use-are met by only 24 percent of hospitals for heart bypass surgery, 21 percent for heart angioplasty, 14 percent for heart attack care and 14 percent for pneumonia care.
- 65 percent of participating hospitals do not have all recommended policies in place to prevent hospital-acquired infections.
- 75 percent do not fully meet the standards for 13 evidence-based safety practices, ranging from hand-washing to nursing staff competence.
- Only 7 percent of hospitals fully meet our standard for reducing medical errors through computerized provider order entry (CPOE).

Notable improvements among participating hospitals include:

- 31 percent now meet the Leapfrog intensive care unit staffing standard, up from 10 percent in 2007.
- Hospitals with all of Leapfrog's recommended safe practices jumped from 13 percent in 2007 to 32 percent in 2008.
- 60 percent of hospitals have agreed to implement Leapfrog's "never events" policy when a serious reportable event occurs in their facility.

To learn more visit www.leapfroggroup.com.

Darrell Says...

A Few Pending Bills to Watch

Many more bills that would impact Texas employers are also pending. To see which ones will affect your company the most [click here](#).

SB 64-Relating to devices that enhance insulin therapy in the treatment of diabetes (you can consider this the insulin pump bill).

HB 1888-Prohibits a physician from requiring that patients agree not to rank or evaluate a physician; also, requires that health plans which rank physicians to use nationally recognized standards and to disclose standards for ranking to physicians and to provide due process.



HB 806-Mandates coverage for prosthetic devices, orthotic devices and related services

HB 2293-Requires Prescription Benefit Managers (PBM's) to use the same factors used by a "community retail pharmacy" in calculating prices.

National Health Care Reform Update

(Prepared by National Business Coalition on Health, a national organization of regional employer coalitions)

Obama Administration Convenes Health Care Summit

On March 5, President Obama held a "White House Forum on Health Reform," bringing together various administration officials, congressional leaders and other stakeholders to discuss options and strategies for comprehensive health reform. In his remarks convening the forum, Obama reiterated his desire to enact health reform this year.

The President also announced a series of regional health reform forums to be hosted by governors in several selected states and to expand the opportunity for public involvement on the direction for health reform.

These regional meetings will be held in California, Iowa, Michigan, North Carolina and Vermont. Obama indicated at the forum he is flexible on the details for the new reserve fund and also open to differing approaches to achieving health care reform.

The Obama administration has indicated that a full report will be produced based on the forum discussions. As part of the forum, the White House also launched the www.healthreform.gov web site, a site dedicated to the administration's health care efforts.

IRS Updates COBRA Subsidy Guidance

On March 5, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) updated its guidance on the COBRA premium subsidy

(<http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=204708,00.html>), which was enacted under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The guidance is prepared in a question-and-answer format. The update provides 15 new questions and answers for employers seeking additional direction on the new COBRA

NBCH Comparative Effectiveness Research (CER) Issue Brief

President Obama's new \$787 billion stimulus bill includes \$1.1 billion dedicated to "comparative effectiveness research" (CER).

CER is heralded as the cornerstone for reducing health care costs and increasing the quality of care, but many lawmakers and health care experts say more research is needed to assess which medicines, devices, and procedures work best at treating different diseases so that medical treatments are better aligned with best practices.

NBCH has developed a policy paper that outlines the current CER political landscape and the pro and con arguments, including those of major stakeholders. NBCH hopes that coalition members and their employers find this paper a useful resource to better understand the issues involved with CER. To access the paper, please go to:

<http://www.nbch.org/resources/policypapers.cfm>

Joint Baucus Grassley Press Release on Health Care Reform

Tuesday, April 28, 2009, the Senate Finance Committee Chairman **Max Baucus** (D-Mont.) and Ranking Member **Charles Grassley** (R-Iowa) jointly released a health care reform policy options document, "[Transforming the Health Care Delivery System: Proposals to Improve Patient Care and Reduce Health Care Costs](#)". The policy options are organized into the below groupings:

- Promoting Quality Care
- Promoting Primary Care
- Fostering Care Coordination and Provider Collaboration
- Infrastructure Investments: Tools to Support Delivery System Reform
- Medicare Advantage: Promoting Quality, Efficiency, and Care Management
- Combating Fraud, Waste, and Abuse

According to a related [press release](#), Senators Baucus and Grassley will walk the Senate Finance Committee through the document-the first of three option papers-soliciting comments that will presumably help shape the comprehensive proposal.

It is the Senate Finance Committee's intention to mark up the health care reform legislation in early to mid-June. Public comments on the policy options are being accepted until May 15, 2009 and can be sent to Health_Reform@finance-dem.senate.gov.

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