



TBGH

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## Programs Update

### *"The Burden of Diabetes on Productivity in the Workplace"*

**Thursday, October 1, 2009**

**11:30am-2:00pm**

**The Magnolia Hotel**

**1100 Texas St., Houston TX 77002**

**[REGISTER NOW!](#)**

Join us on Oct. 1 for an informative presentation from Dr. Seth Garber, Mercer Inc., on the burden of diabetes on worker productivity and how employers are attempting to measure the links between diabetes, productivity loss, and the economic cost to the company. Also learn how several pace-setting employers in Houston are taking on diabetes in the workplace through an innovative program that not only helps improve employees' overall health and productivity, but also improves the quality of diabetes care in the community.



Don't miss TBGH's premier Houston luncheon program where local employers and healthcare executives come together to learn from a national expert, local employers, and from each other in a setting conducive to learning, information exchange and relationship building.

**Sponsored by:**



Texas Business Group on Health and  
Dallas-Fort Worth Business Group on Health

**5th Annual Value-Based Benefits  
& Wellness Forum and Vendor Fair**

**December 3, 2009**

Westin Park Central, Dallas, Texas  
8:00 am – 4:30 pm

## NEW "MEMBERS ONLY" Website Coming Soon!

Stay Tuned for news on our new "Members Only" website featuring secure access to our:

- **Online Member Directory** (continuously updated)
- **Newsletters**
- **Member Networking Opportunities**
- **and much more...**

## MEMBERS ON THE MOVE!

TBGH member, **Debbie Ware**, Manager of Benefits and Pension for the Metropolitan Transit Authority in Houston has joined the TBGH Board of Directors. She has agreed to act as the new Membership Chair.

## Quick Links

[OCTOBER 1 LUNCHEON PROGRAM](#)  
[TBGH](#)  
[PPHP](#)

## Don't miss these White Hot Topics...

Our planning committee led by **Matt Robbins, Benefits**

**Manager, Sabre Holdings**, has confirmed these several white hot topics: behavioral economics, HIPAA/Health care reform, measuring incentives/disincentives, cost of consequences, and much more....

## **New Resources**

### **2009 Texas Type II Diabetes Report**

The Texas Business Group on Health is pleased to present the Texas Type 2 Diabetes Report for 2009, an overview of demographic, financial, utilization and pharmacotherapy measures for Type 2 diabetes patients in key local markets in the state of Texas. New data on medication adherence are included in this year's report

Key Findings:

\* In 2008, the number of patients diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes rose sharply across Texas, perhaps suggesting a worsening epidemic, but also greater awareness of diabetes risks and more aggressive diagnosing. For example:

\*The highest increase in prevalence was in El Paso, where 74% more individuals were diagnosed over last year.

\*Houston (41%), Austin (34%), and Dallas (31%) also saw large increases in Type 2 diabetes prevalence

\* Texas continues to lag behind the rest of the nation in the use of evidence-based medical care such as A1c and cholesterol tests and eye exams.

\*Only 70% of Type 2 diabetics received at least one A1c test compared to 73.8% nationally

\*Only Austin exceeded the national average with 78.9%

\*San Antonio had the lowest rate at 62.7%

\* In 2008, Texas hospitals charged an average of \$63,175 per patient for Type 2 Diabetes inpatient care: 20% higher than the national average of \$52,730.

\*Houston had the highest inpatient charges at \$62,816 per patient: a 13% increase over the year before.

\* Houston also had the highest physician charges for inpatient care of Type 2 diabetes, rising a whopping 48% to \$10,982 from \$7,434. This is 70% higher than the state average of 6,442 and 67% higher than the national average of \$6,570.

To view the full report, visit our website resources section at:

[www.tbgh.org/resources.htm](http://www.tbgh.org/resources.htm).

### **Finding Quality Care**

**Hospital-specific 30-day readmission rates now are included among the performance measures reported on the federal Medicare Compare website ([www.medicarecompare.gov](http://www.medicarecompare.gov)).**

The measure focuses on fee-for-service Medicare patients who are at least 65 and were first hospitalized with a principal diagnosis of acute myocardial infarction, health failure, or community-acquired pneumonia. The data are risk-adjusted and show whether a hospital's rate is lower, no different, or higher than the national rate. A recent study in The New England Journal of Medicine found that almost one-fifth of Medicare patients are rehospitalized within 30 days and more than a third of patients are rehospitalized within 90 days, adding over \$17B to Medicare's bill in 2004.

For a link to this source and many other great resources visit our resources page, [www.tbgh.org/resources.htm](http://www.tbgh.org/resources.htm).

### **Benfield Group 2009 Employer and Coalition Healthcare and Pharmacy Trend Study**

Highlights from the Executive Summary available at [www.tbgh.org/resources.htm](http://www.tbgh.org/resources.htm):

- Although the economy has forced many employers to put health management initiatives on hold, employers' strategic focus on healthcare value and consumerism remains largely unchanged.
- For the fourth consecutive year, consumerism was ranked as the trend most likely to have the greatest impact on pharmacy benefits in the next 12-18 months.
- Despite political positioning and rhetoric about reform, over half of employers surveyed indicate they prefer a 'low level' of government involvement in the provision of health care, nearly unchanged from 2008.
- There seems to be a resurgence of employer work-site based health clinics, with the most popular services being workplace injuries, immunizations and screenings.

For the full Executive Summary visit our resources page at [www.tbgh.org/resources.htm](http://www.tbgh.org/resources.htm).

### Special Offer! Free Subscription to The American Journal of Managed Care & The American Journal of Pharmacy Benefits

The AJMC and AJPB have teamed up with NBCH to offer TBGH members the benefit of free subscription to either or both journals.

Click here, [www.ajmc.com/nbch](http://www.ajmc.com/nbch), and enter the promotional code **NBCH2009**.

*The American Journal of Managed Care is an independent, peer-reviewed publication that examines the clinical, economic, and policy aspects of financing and delivering healthcare. The American Journal of Pharmacy Benefits' mission is to provide pharmacy and formulary decision makers with the information they need to improve the efficiency and health outcomes in managing pharmaceutical care.*

## DFWBGH Diabetes Collaborative Update



### Road Trip! Destination: Peak Performance

DFWBGH recently developed a worksite intervention program to educate and empower employees to be more responsible health care consumers. The program has just completed its beta testing at **American Airlines, DART, Energy Future Holdings, and City of Mesquite**, all of whom are corporate members of DFWBGH, TBGH's sister coalition in Dallas-Fort Worth. The beta tests were very successful and work is under way to package the program and make it available to coalition members for free.

### Diabetes Care Reports

The five health plans participating in the PPHP have begun data collection for 2008 DFW Diabetes Care Reports for Dallas-Fort Worth area physicians. These reports consolidate claims data across the five health plans and give physicians a broad view of the level of diabetes care their patients receive compared to regional levels of care. This second round of reports will be mailed to nearly 1300 practicing physicians this fall.

### Transforming Diabetes Care Initiative

Research is being done to learn about quality initiatives and communication resources that are available within major physician groups in Dallas-Fort Worth. This initiative focuses on documenting and sharing best practices among physicians who treat diabetic patients.

### Second Anniversary PPHP Dinner

Planning for the second anniversary dinner to celebrate PPHP success is under way with a tentative date on November 17. This year's dinner will focus on collaborative partnership among stakeholders, recognition of leaders within stakeholder groups, and highlighting best practices. Sanofi-aventis has offered to sponsor the dinner again this year.

For more information on the PPHP and it's initiatives please visit

<http://www.dfwbgh.org/partnership/index.htm>.

## National Health Care Reports\*

### H1N1 Flu Update

Federal Guidelines Encourage Employers to Plan Now for Upcoming Influenza Season as announced August 19 in a press conference and with a special phone conference for business. Department of Commerce Secretary Locke suggested businesses set the right tone in the workplace. That means implementing common sense measures to reduce the risk of spreading the flu and encouraging workers who are sick to stay home.

The CDC has developed a tool kit for employers. "Preparing for the Flu: A Communication Toolkit for Businesses and Employers" provides information and communication resources to help businesses and employers implement recommendations from CDC's Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to the 2009-2010 Influenza Season.

**Preparing for the Flu: A Communication Toolkit for Businesses and Employers available by visiting**

<http://www.flu.gov/plan/workplaceplanning/toolkit.html>.

### 2009 National Health Care Reform Update

With the pressure of public scrutiny brought on during the August recess and the commitment to sign a bill, the Obama administration seems to be softening to some degree on what had been nonnegotiable issues, such as the public plan option. Meanwhile, the timeline for passage of the bill continues to slip. The President is now indicating that a bill will be signed by the end of the year. The House adjourned Friday, July 31st and the Senate went out of session on August 7th without reaching an agreement on reform legislation. In the Senate, the bi-partisan "group of six" on the Senate Finance Committee, led by Committee Chair, Max Baucus (D-MT) set a revised mid-September deadline for an agreement on bi-partisan legislation. So, for the remaining three weeks of recess, health care reform is certain to be paramount on the minds of legislators and their constituents back home.

As always, please contact NBCH's Government Affairs Committee staff person, Kelli Moler Pedas ([kmoler@nbch.org](mailto:kmoler@nbch.org)) with any questions you may have.

**\*This information provided by the National Business Coalition on Health.**

For more information please visit [www.nbch.org](http://www.nbch.org).

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