

## **PBGH CEO David Lansky urges "let's keep our eyes on the prize," at the one year anniversary of the Affordable Care Act**

The week of March 21 marked the one year anniversary of the passage of the Affordable Care Act into law. Friends and foes of the legislation used the opportunity to highlight the law's successes and shortcomings to date. Writing for the Huffington Post, PBGH CEO David Lansky and Catholic Healthcare West President/CEO Lloyd Dean explain that buried within in 2,500 pages of the law is cause for hope: the law gives us the tools we need to begin to improve quality and control costs. Now it is up to providers and purchasers to persevere. Read their op-ed at

[www.pbgh.org](http://www.pbgh.org)

Meanwhile, last week the Consumer-Purchaser Disclosure Project, a leading coalition of consumers, purchasers and labor led by PBGH, examined the opportunity to improve care quality in the months and years ahead in a new, interactive timeline. Explore the timeline at: [http://healthcaredisclosure.org/docs/files/ACA\\_Timeline\\_March\\_2011.pdf](http://healthcaredisclosure.org/docs/files/ACA_Timeline_March_2011.pdf)

## **PBGH works with HHS leaders to design tools to help consumers choose a health plan in the exchange**

PBGH began work with senior leaders from HHS to identify and develop tools to help individuals choose a health plan through the federal and state health insurance exchanges, come 2014. PBGH has developed and enhanced consumer decision support tools over many years, providing an online application called The Health Plan Chooser to a set of PBGH members. "Come 2014 individuals will be required to have insurance; they will need to understand the options available to them and what type of plan best suits their medical needs," explains David Lansky, CEO of PBGH. "We can help them pick a plan that meets their needs and is more affordable by creating the right tools. The time to do some serious thinking about that is now."

## **PBGH helps analyze, report on California health plan performance**

In March, the California State Office of the Patient Advocate released its health plan and medical group ratings for plans and medical groups in California. This is the ninth year PBGH has successfully partnered with the State to score and interpret the performance results and release the findings. Extensive research conducted by PBGH about what consumers want and need to know lead to a new approach to score and report health plan performance results. For example, this year's survey rates plans

### ***PBGH Leaders in Action***

On April 5, **PBGH CEO David Lansky** will join health care leaders in Washington DC to present at the World Health Care Congress. Dr. Lansky will present on how stakeholders can collaborate for improvement, and the role of health information exchanges in creating value for ACOs and medical homes.

**Suzanne Delbanco, Executive Director for Catalyst for Payment Reform (CPR)**, explains how we can begin to pay for performance, in a special video presentation on California Healthline. PBGH provides core support to CPR, bolstering its work to reform how we pay for health care in the United States. Watch the video at [www.pbgh.org](http://www.pbgh.org)

**PBGH Senior Advisor David Hopkins** explains how lack of competition leads to rising prices among Northern California hospitals. Read the LA Times report: <http://articles.latimes.com/2011/mar/06/business/la-fi-hospital-cost-20110306>

**Last week, several PBGH and SVEF members including leaders from Chevron, Bechtel, Google, Safeway, Oracle and Wells Fargo** presented at the Conference Board's Employee Health Care Conference, sharing strategies to reduce costs and improve employee health. Learn more about their continued efforts in the Membership Spotlight at [www.pbgh.org](http://www.pbgh.org).

on two new performance indicators: members' experiences with the plans' service and their ability to get care easily. The 2011 survey also showed that across the board, members gave their plans a lower score than in years past, a signal that plans need to better meet members' needs at time of rising health costs for consumers. Learn more at [www.opa.ca.gov](http://www.opa.ca.gov).

### **New PBGH partnership with California Endowment will explore ways to improve the health and well-being of California communities**

PBGH and The California Endowment have joined forces to strategically improve the health and well-being of California communities. Through a multi-year project, PBGH will work with The Endowment in its Building Healthy Communities initiative where PBGH member companies have a significant number of employees. The two organizations will explore a series of prevention strategies to improve health, safety, youth development, and care delivery including intensive primary care for patients with chronic disease.

#### ***About PBGH***

Pacific Business Group on Health is one of the nation's top business coalitions focused on health care. Our 50 large purchaser members spend billions of dollars annually to provide health care coverage to more than 3 million employees, retirees and dependents in California alone. PBGH is a respected voice in the state and national dialogue on how to improve the quality and effectiveness of health care while moderating costs. Partnering with the state's leading health plans, provider organizations, consumer groups and other stakeholders, PBGH works on many fronts to promote value-based purchasing in health care.

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