

PBGH meets with senior HHS leaders to create insurance exchanges that work

On January 13th, PBGH members met with senior HHS leaders to share their insights on how HHS can best create a health insurance exchange that improves health care coverage and quality while moderating costs. Under the new health care reform law, states have the option to set up health insurance exchanges or allow individuals to receive coverage through a federal insurance exchange come 2014. If exchanges successfully cover the uninsured and offer products that reinforce payment reform and improved care delivery, they can dramatically improve health care. [Learn more about what employers want to see in the new exchanges.](#)



PBGH hires Bill Kramer, MBA as new Executive Director for National Health Policy

On January 18th Bill Kramer, MBA joined PBGH as its new Executive Director for National Health Policy, bringing over 25 years of health care policy experience to the organization. Kramer will lead the organization's work in Washington, DC, helping to ensure health care reform is implemented in ways that improve health care quality and reduce costs. [Learn more](#)



PBGH advocates CMS raise the bar for Accountable Care Organizations

Anticipating CMS' release of formal rules about the structure of Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs), PBGH issued a set of "Purchaser Principles for ACOs" which outline what large employers would like to see in these new care delivery models, created under the health care reform law. If structured appropriately, ACOs could deliver improved care and help contain costs by making a provider group responsible for the quality and cost of care for a specific population of patients. However, to achieve these results, these new care models need to have a variety of features in place, including transparency and accountability for outcomes. [Read PBGH's Principles for ACOs.](#)

PBGH in the Spotlight

PBGH CEO David Lansky and Steve Findlay of Consumers Union share their assessment of the new Medicare Physician Compare website. While the site could be a game changer, Lansky and Findlay explain the site must become consumer-friendly, with meaningful measures. [Read more](#)

With support from the California HealthCare Foundation, PBGH's Giovanna Giuliani co-authored a groundbreaking [compendium](#), examining best practices for improving the patient experience from California's high performing physician groups.

In the News

Silicon Valley Employers' Forum (SVEF), a coalition of leading Silicon Valley Employers and a member of PBGH, is pleased to welcome Facebook as its newest member. Nina McQueen, Global Benefits and Melanie Bauer, HR Generalist will represent Facebook in SVEF.

The National Business Coalition on Health recognized PBGH member Boeing with its Employer Excellence in Value-Based Purchasing Award at its annual conference late last year. Boeing was recognized for its efforts to improve the quality and value of care

California Quality Collaborative celebrates success at the three year mark, sets new accomplishments for 2014

With support from PBGH, California Quality Collaborative (CQC) identifies and shares proven innovations in outpatient care with physicians and medical groups across California. CQC offers a variety of learning opportunities statewide; some are expert-led while others are peer-to-peer. Over the last three years, CQC has achieved some impressive results including raising patient experience scores and reducing emergency room usage. Now the organization is setting ambitious goals for 2014 to:



- Improve quality and reduce total cost for 50,000 vulnerable, medically complex patients by testing and spreading care management methods that achieve a 15 percent reduction in cost with equal increases in clinical quality and patient satisfaction.
- Reduce the number of avoidable re-admissions within 30 days from acute hospitalizations by 10 percent or 12,000 patients.
- Reduce avoidable emergency room visits by 5 percent for 1 million patients.
- Improve outpatient service delivery for 1 million patients.

[Learn more about CQC's work](#)

quality and value of care through payment reform and benefit design programs. One of these initiatives is Boeing's Intensive Outpatient Care Program (IOCP), designed to improve quality of care and better manage costs for patients with complex medical conditions.

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