

## **PBGH Board Chair Paul Fearer appointed to California Health Insurance Exchange Board**

Today California State Assembly Speaker John Pérez (D-Los Angeles) named Paul Fearer, Senior Executive Vice President and Director of Human Resources of UnionBanCal Corporation and Union Bank, and Chairman of the Board at PBGH, to California's Health Benefits Exchange Board. The board will be responsible for implementing what will likely become the largest health insurance exchange in the nation and the first of its kind, created under the health care reform law of 2010. Fearer has played a leadership role at PBGH role for over 13 years. For six years, Fearer also served on the Board of Pacific Health Advantage, a statewide health insurance purchasing pool for small businesses in California that was operated by PBGH. Learn more about his appointment and PBGH's efforts to share large employers' perspectives on the exchange at [www.pbgh.org](http://www.pbgh.org).

## **PBGH supported project mounts a large effort to reduce hospital readmissions**

The California Quality Collaborative (CQC), which works with support from PBGH members to educate providers to enhance quality, is undertaking a bold new initiative to reduce 30-day hospital readmissions by 30 percent by 2013. One in 10 California patients entering a hospital needs to return within 30 days, often more than once. Many of these return trips can be avoided and these hospital readmissions affect these patients' health, quality of life and the cost of their health care. Readmissions cost \$4.4 billion annually — or about 14 percent of the total paid to hospitals by private payers. To accomplish the goal of "30 by 30 by 2013," CQC is creating a forum for hospitals and their outpatient partners to understand existing evidence-based models and the fidelity required to successfully implement these models. Learn more at <http://www.pbgh.org/news-and-publications/pbgh-blog>.



## **Barbara Decker joins PBGH as new Director of Purchaser Services**

Barbara Decker has joined the Pacific Business Group on Health as the organizations new Director of Purchaser Services. In this new role, she will serve the day-to-day needs of PBGH's 50

### *PBGH Leaders in Action*

The Sixth National **Pay for Performance (P4P) Summit**, sponsored by the Integrated Healthcare Association (IHA), is scheduled for March 23-25 in San Francisco. Agenda and registration are available at: <http://pfpsummit.com/>.

**PBGH's Senior Directors Diane Stewart, Ted von Glahn and Senior Manager Giovanna Giuliani** will lead a pre-conference session on Improving the Patient Experience. **PBGH CEO David Lansky** will moderate a valuable session for providers and consultants on how to implement meaningful use into a P4P program.

**PBGH CEO David Lansky** and PBGH Director **Kate Chenok** presented at the **American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons** and the **International Meeting of Registries (ISAR)**, discussing how registries support accountable, high value care. Chenok directs the California Joint Replacement Registry, a pilot project designed to collect and share data to provide credible feedback to orthopedic surgeons, hospitals and patients about their treatment decisions, quality of care, and patient outcomes. The project is supported by the California HealthCare Foundation. Learn more about CJRR and other PBGH efforts to promote appropriate care on our blog: <http://www.pbgh.org/news-and-publications/pbgh-blog>

member companies. Decker has over 30 years experience working in employee benefits, and was most recently Director of Benefits for Southern California Edison, a PBGH member company. She will be a valuable addition to PBGH members.

### **New Issue Brief examines what employers need from Accountable Care Organizations**

Accountable Care Organizations, or ACOs, are one of the “big bets” in health care reform, as a possible care delivery model to improve quality and help control costs. However, what an ACO actually is, and how it operates remains to be defined. As consumers, providers and purchasers wait anxiously for CMS to release the rules that will help shape these organizations, PBGH has released an issue brief that outlines what purchasers should expect — and what policymakers should require — from ACOs to help guarantee they deliver what they promise. A copy of the Issue Brief, *Raising the Bar*, is available at:

<http://www.pbgh.org/news-and-publications/pbgh-articles-a-publications>

#### ***In the News***

In February's Modern HealthCare PBGH CEO David Lansky and Steve Findlay of Consumers Union discuss the data patients need to choose the right physician. Read their commentary at:

<http://www.pbgh.org/news-and-publications/pbgh-in-the-news>

#### ***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.

**Pacific Business Group on Health** - 221 Main Street, Suite 1500 San Francisco, CA 94105  
Telephone: (415) 281-8660 Fax: (415) 520-0927 Email: [info@pbgh.org](mailto:info@pbgh.org)

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