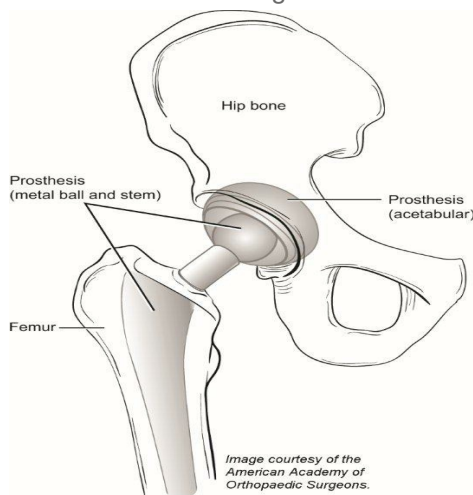


New orthopedic joint registry shows promise for reducing health care costs and improving care

Joint replacements, which accounted for \$41 billion in nationwide charges in 2007, have become the highest volume -- and highest cost -- surgeries for both Medicare and private payers. Yet little is known about which surgeries and devices work best. Last



year PBGH joined forces with The California HealthCare Foundation, the California Orthopedic Association and three leading California hospitals to pilot the California Joint Replacement Registry (CJRR). One of only two registries of its kind in this country, CJRR captures information about a patient's clinical experience,

orthopedic implant devices and patients' self reported outcomes before and after surgery. With the successful pilot phase completed, the CJRR is now poised to expand to include six additional hospitals. "With these additional sites, we will capture information on 20 percent of the hip and knee surgeries in CA," explains Kate Chenok, director of the project. "This information will enable surgeons and patients to make the best choices about their care and lead to value for everyone." Registries in other countries have increased patient satisfaction, decreased the need for patients to have repeat surgeries and increased value. Learn more about the registry at www.caljrr.org.

New research shows reducing non-medically indicated c-sections could save as much as \$441 million each year, improve maternal and child health

Cesarean delivery rates in both California and the United States as a whole rose by 50 percent between 1998 and 2008, climbing from 22 percent to 33 percent of all births in just a decade, with enormous variation across hospitals, regions of the state and providers. Meanwhile, various studies have shown a connection between non-medically indicated c-sections and poor maternal and child health outcomes. Now a new paper, authored by PBGH, the California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative and the California

Facts and Forecasts

Purchasers and consumers talk a lot about how we need better performance measures in health care to improve quality; but just exactly what kind of measurement do we need? A new Consumer-Purchaser Disclosure Project report describes the [Top Ten Criteria for Meaningful and Useable Measures of Performance](#).

Purchasers remain concerned that ACOs might not achieve their goals of improving quality and affordability, especially if health care systems behave like monopolies and increase prices. Read the purchaser and consumer perspective, from PBGH's Bill Kramer and Debra Ness of the National Partnership for Women & Families, in [Health Affairs](#).

More employers are pushing health plans to release cost data to support transparency, and to allow employees to make care decisions using cost data; and yet they are getting pushback. It is a critical and ongoing campaign, as [the Wall Street Journal reports](#).

To benefit purchasers and consumers, health care needs the right kind of competition, based on cost and quality. Unfortunately, in many regions, market concentration poses a real threat. Learn more by reading PBGH's perspective in [California Healthline](#).

Perinatal Quality Care Collaborative, takes a hard look at the causes behind this dramatic rise and offers specific strategies to reduce the rate of non-medically indicated c-sections. "Medical factors alone do not account for the rise, or the variation in practice," explains David Hopkins, PhD. "There are cultural factors at work." When a low risk woman goes into labor, the likelihood of having a cesarean will depend on a number of factors, such as how complications in labor are interpreted and managed. In many situations a woman may wrongly believe she needs a c-section for her baby's sake, or providers may encourage it to reduce their liability or to speed up the birthing process.



The findings point to the need for specific strategies including: the need for access to timely outcomes data; quality improvement initiatives at hospitals, payment reform and education. A concerted effort could reduce health care costs by as much as \$441 million each year, with significant savings going to the State of California which pays for Medi-Cal births. The paper was supported by the California HealthCare Foundation. Read more at <http://www.cmqcc.org/> .

Health care leaders offer advice on how new health insurance exchanges can promote quality

On October 10, 2011, the Pacific Business Group on Health hosted a meeting of experts, stakeholders, and officials from the Federal Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight (CCIIO) to discuss strategies to promote quality and value in Health Insurance Exchanges ("Exchanges") established under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Leaders representing purchasers, consumers, plans, providers and policymakers shared important insights about what federal and state leaders can do to support quality health care via the exchanges. Read their insights at www.pbgh.org.

in [California Healthline](#).

Check out the Catalyst for Payment Reform's new issue brief on [Improving Fee-for-Service Payment](#).

*Silicon Valley Employer Forum member
Intuit received the National Business Coalition on Health's 2011 Employer Excellence in Value-Based Purchasing Award for groundbreaking work to promote employee wellness through innovative benefit design.*

Check out the Silicon Valley Employer Forum's new logo. For all the latest happenings at SVEF, visit www.sveforum.org .



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.

[Click to view this email in a browser](#)

If you no longer wish to receive these emails, please reply to this message with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line or simply click on the following link:
[Unsubscribe](#)

Pacific Business Group on Health
221 Main Street, Suite 1500
San Francisco, CA 94105
USA

[Read](#) the VerticalResponse marketing policy.

