

PBGH and Consumer-Purchaser Disclosure Project keep up a steady drumbeat: hold ACOs to higher standards

Anticipating the soon-to-be-released regulations to guide accountable care organizations (ACOs), PBGH and the Consumer-Purchaser Disclosure Project are repeating their long-standing message: hold ACOs to a higher standard. **In order for these new models of care to meaningfully re-design care, care coordination and patient-centered approaches are critical.**

Last month, PBGH Executive Director of National Health Policy, and co-chair of the Consumer-Purchaser Disclosure Project Bill Kramer teamed up with fellow co-chair Debra Ness, President of the National Partnership for Women & Families to explain how care coordination is critical to this effort. Read more in the [Health Affairs blog](#).

The final rule is expected to be released from CMS this month.

Exchanges can be a place where consumers choose their health care, not just their plan

Traditionally, health insurance exchanges have been a place where consumers shop for health insurance by choosing a health plan. However, if they were designed to first allow consumers to select a provider and then a plan, exchanges could become an important avenue for consumers to choose not only coverage but care. PBGH Executive Director for Health Policy, Bill Kramer, [explains this approach in The Health Care Blog](#).

In other exchange news, PBGH is busy preparing comments on the first set of proposed exchange regulations. Stakeholders representing consumers, purchasers, plans, providers and policymakers will gather next week to share their input on how to promote quality and value within the exchange, at a meeting hosted by PBGH in San Francisco. For more details, contact wkramer@pbgh.org.

PBGH reminds consumers that quality and cost matter as part of Care About Your Care campaign

Supporting the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's (RWJF) month-long Care About Your Care campaign to help consumers identify better health care, PBGH Senior Advisor David Hopkins presented to the Humboldt County community, sharing his expertise on what constitutes quality health care. Hopkins, a nationally-recognized expert in health care



Facts and Forecasts

The cost for a hip or knee replacement in California can range from \$15,000 to \$100,000. By choosing a "reference price," CalPERS can save 20 percent of health care costs, and keep care more affordable for members. [Learn more in USA Today.](#)

Fantasy baseball players have far more data to evaluate players for their teams than patients and referring doctors have in matters of life and death. Learn more from PBGH Medical Director Dr. Arnie Milstein in the [Wall Street Journal](#).

It is still too soon to predict if large employers will use the exchanges, PBGH Executive Director of National Health Policy Bill Kramer explains, speaking at the [World Health Care Congress](#).

Health 2.0 tools are helping employees purchase care in a different way, PBGH Senior Manager Amanda Goltz explains, [speaking at the Health 2.0 conference](#).

In setting up the state's small business exchange, California must learn from the demise of the PacAdvantage exchange, or it may suffer a similar fate; PBGH's Leesa Tori explains in [Health Affairs](#).

This month, PBGH CEO David Lansky will present at the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons first "Quality Institute". Lansky will encourage the institute to **satisfy purchasers' expectation for rigorous appropriateness criteria and publicly reported outcomes measures** for orthopedic procedures. These are part of

quality, is a longstanding advocate for greater transparency, so consumers can better understand provider performance and cost. **The presentation, which contains important tips for providers, policymakers, plans and consumers, can be found at <http://www.pbgh.org/news-and-publications/pbgh-presentations> .**



a [set of important tools to improve the value of specialty care.](#)

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.

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

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