

## **PBGH, CalPERS and PG&E launch new program designed to help chronically ill employees get the right care**

Starting July 5th, select CalPERS and PG&E employees with chronic illnesses began receiving better quality, more affordable care. The two purchasers teamed up with PBGH, Humboldt IPA and Anthem to create "Priority Care," a new care delivery and payment model that focuses on providing targeted primary care to medically complex patients. Priority Care is modeled after similar successful pilot programs developed by PBGH Medical Director Arnie Milstein, MD. Comparable programs, including one used by PBGH member Boeing in Seattle, improved care and reduced costs by as much as 15-20 percent. To learn more about how the model is so effective, read Dr. Milstein's article in the Health Affairs blog at

<http://healthaffairs.org/blog/2008/09/10/medical-homes-and-medical-home-runs/>.

## **PBGH and Consumer-Purchaser Disclosure Project celebrate a win on hospital payment policy**

Last spring, PBGH and the Consumer-Purchaser Disclosure Project advocated strongly to ensure the new Medicare Hospital Value-Based Purchasing Program would begin to pay hospitals based on value, not volume. On April 29th, they were very pleased when the final rule reflected their input. Under the program, hospitals are rewarded based on a complex formula that now includes consideration of more meaningful quality measures, the patient experience, and mortality rates. All three were included at the urging of the Consumer-Purchaser Disclosure Project, and raise the bar for hospitals to provide better quality care. "This is about ensuring hospitals are paid because they provide better quality, more affordable care to real patients," explained Bill Kramer, Executive Director for National Health Policy for PBGH, and co-chair of the Consumer-Purchaser Disclosure Project.

## **Catalyst for Payment Reform shares insights, tools for purchasers**

PBGH is a founding partner of Catalyst for Payment Reform (CPR), an organization of health care purchasers working to improve how we pay for health care in the U.S. CPR serves as a

### *Leaders in Action*

**Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.** is the newest member of PBGH. The organization provides health coverage to over 1.2 million associates and their family members.

Virtual computing leader, Silicon Valley based **Citrix Systems** is the newest member of the Silicon Valley Employers' Forum (SVEF). SVEF is a member of PBGH.

On June 27th, **PBGH CEO David Lansky** again shared the message that employers demand a higher bar for Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs), urging them to show genuine improvements in quality and cost moderation. Read Modern Healthcare's coverage of David Lansky's remarks under latest news at [www.pbgh.org](http://www.pbgh.org).

On September 19th, **PBGH's Executive Director of National Health Policy, Bill Kramer**, will present at the World Health Care Congress on Exchanges. Learn more at [www.worldcongress.com/exchanges](http://www.worldcongress.com/exchanges).

On September 26th, **PBGH will team up with the Society for Participatory Medicine** for a special evening event: *Understanding the Value of Participatory Medicine to Providers, Purchasers and Patients: a Dinner Dialogue*. To learn more visit <http://participatorymedicine.org/>

**PBGH's Director of Purchaser Services, Barbara Decker, and PBGH Senior Manager Amanda Goltz** have led a series of webinars for members about how purchasers can help their employees make good

staunch advocate in policy circles, while providing employers with practical tools they can use to change how they pay for health care today. Hot off the press, read CPR Executive Director Suzanne Delbanco's expert insights on how purchasers must work with providers to reform payment. Her Modern Healthcare commentary is under latest news at [www.pbgh.org](http://www.pbgh.org) . CPR welcomes all employers to participate in its efforts and to use its freely available tools. Learn more at <http://www.catalyzepaymentreform.org/> .

A special webinar for purchasers to learn more is scheduled for August 11th. Email Suzanne Delbanco at [sdelbanco@catalyzepaymentreform.org](mailto:sdelbanco@catalyzepaymentreform.org).

*decisions using cost calculator tools. Learn more about these insights at the PBGH blog at <http://www.pbgh.org/news-and-publications/pbgh-blog> .*

#### ***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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