



PBGH
Pacific Business
Group on Health

**221 Main Street
Suite 1500
San Francisco
CA 94108
www.pbgh.org
Tel 415.281.0660
Fax 415.281.0960**

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Contact: Carri Cummings
916-341-0472 (office) or 916-502-1131 (cell)

Pacific Business Group on Health Describes Roadmap for Building Health Care Value

Calls on Lawmakers to Assure that Any Health Care Reform Promotes Quality and Controls Costs

San Francisco, August 6, 2007 – In an effort to focus attention on the need to ensure quality and control costs, the Pacific Business Group on Health today released a series of issue briefs describing measures that should be included in health care reform plans to see consumers, employees and employers get better value for their health care dollars.

PBGH is the nation's premier coalition of health care purchasers. Its 50 members provide health insurance to more than 3 million employees and their dependents. PBGH is working with AARP, Consumers Union, the California Labor Federation, Insure the Uninsured Project, as well as other employer, consumer and labor organizations, to assure that any health care reforms will result in high-quality, cost-effective care.

"We need to shift our broken health care system from one where we pay for costly inappropriate care to one where patients get the right care at the right time at a fair price," said Peter V. Lee, CEO of PBGH. "True health care reform should result in universal coverage and should ensure patients and providers have reliable information with which to make important health care decisions. We also must re-align incentives so that physicians and patients together are working for better health through prevention, appropriate intervention, and management of chronic conditions, like diabetes and heart disease."

"These issue briefs seek to further health care reform discussions by providing facts about some of the problems we face and examples of solutions for each," said Lee. The building health care value fact sheets focus on:

- Creating a transparent health care system by measuring and reporting on the quality and costs of care that patients receive.
- Providing easy-to-use, reliable information to help consumers make decisions about the care that is best for themselves and their families.
- Changing payments to reward providers who deliver the right care at the right time.
- Encouraging the rapid adoption of health information technology to reduce medical errors and streamline an outdated paper-based record keeping system.
- Redesigning our health care system so patients get the care they need, when they need it, from the appropriate provider.
- Ensuring our health care system provides high quality care for everyone.

To access an overview and separate issue briefs on each subject, please go to <http://www.pbgh.org/programs/policy.asp>