

CAPG Employer Advisory Council Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CALIFORNIA'S LEADING PHYSICIAN GROUPS AND EMPLOYERS FORM COUNCIL TO ADDRESS STATE'S HEALTH CARE CHALLENGES

Los Angeles, Calif., June 30, 2005—The California Association of Physician Groups (CAPG) today announced the formation of the CAPG Employer Advisory Council that includes some of the State's leading employers, physician groups, and health care consultants. The Council held its inaugural meeting on June 22, 2005, and was formed to allow health care purchasers and physicians to come together to discuss California's most significant health care issues. The Council will convene as necessary to work with CAPG leadership on a wide range of major concerns impacting California's health care system. Topics will focus on the rising cost of care, maintaining high quality care, and the pros and cons of the latest product trends such as HSAs and Consumer Directed Healthcare.

"California's employers are the beneficiaries of some of the lowest health care premiums in the nation, said Donald Crane, president and chief executive officer for CAPG. "We believe these low premiums are due in large part to the existence of effective systems of organized care developed by California's physician groups."

Crane continued by pointing out that high deductible and other consumer-driven health plans may undermine the success of the current health care system, drive underlying health care costs higher, and erode existing quality efforts. "That's why we invited several of the State's leading health care purchasers and advisors to the table. We think it's critical to take a closer look at how to maintain quality while managing cost, and feel the best way to do that is to have the health care purchasers and providers together be part of the solution."

CAPG's Employer Advisory Council is comprised of key representatives from many of California's major health care purchasers including Verizon, Southern California Edison, Wells Fargo, CalPERS and the Pacific Business Group on Health (PBGH); as well as major health care providers including Monarch, Brown & Toland, Bristol Park, HealthCare Partners, Hill Physicians and Physician Associates. The Council also includes representatives from respected health care consultants including Watson Wyatt, Mercer, Towers Perrin, Keenan, Barney & Barney, and Word & Brown.

Representatives from other organizations, such as the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA), round out the Council membership. Health plans are not represented.

“Health care purchasers and providers are in an excellent position to determine the most effective delivery models and benefit designs and influence what kind of health care products are offered in California,” said Crane. “CAPG’s Employer Advisory Council provides a unique opportunity for these stakeholders to come together to leverage their knowledge and experience.

About CAPG

The California Association of Physician Groups (CAPG) is a professional association committed to improving health care for Californians. Based in Los Angeles, California, CAPG membership includes nearly 150 of California’s leading physician groups representing more than 40,000 physicians who provide health care services to approximately 13 million Californians. For more information about CAPG, please visit www.capg.org.