



Volume 1 | Issue 2 | Summer 2006

## DMAA Elevates Role of Panel on Employer Issues

*To recognize the essential role employers play in bringing the benefits of disease management and wellness to people with chronic conditions, DMAA has significantly elevated its commitment to addressing employer issues.*

*The new Employers Council, formerly the Employer Subcommittee under DMAA's Quality and Research Committee, will report directly to the DMAA Board of Directors, DMAA Executive Director Tracey Moorhead says.*

*"In many ways, the objectives of the subcommittee's 2006-2007 initiatives extend beyond the scope of the Quality and Research Committee," Moorhead says. "While there is overlap—our project on developing guidelines to measure program impact, for example—we decided the scope of the subcommittee's work was broad enough to justify elevating it to committee status."*

*The panel's responsibilities include employer-targeted communications, such as this newsletter and a planned series of Webcasts on critical workplace issues; development of a toolkit for employers considering disease management programs; development of the Employer Summit and other programming at the Disease Management Leadership Forum; and surveys and other DMAA initiatives to better understand and address employer needs and trends on disease management and wellness programs.*

## DMAA Spotlights Employer Issues At 8th Annual Leadership Forum

The 2006 Disease Management Leadership Forum (DMLF), an annual DMAA education and exhibit event, will feature a special pre-conference summit dedicated to chronic disease management, care coordination and wellness issues for employers.

The Dec. 3 Employer Summit, in Denver, and an employer-focused track for the main DMLF concurrent sessions, will give employers invaluable tools and practical advice for helping workers manage their health—especially those with diabetes, obesity and other chronic conditions.

"More and more, employers are turning to disease management to improve employee health and productivity, but many still have questions about the best way to carry out a program," DMAA Executive Director Tracey Moorhead says. "The Employer Summit will provide answers from corporate leaders who have successfully made disease management an integral part of their overall employee health strategy."

Just announced for the Employer Summit is keynote speaker Ronald E. Bachman, president and chief executive of Healthcare Visions Inc., and senior fellow of the Center for Health Transformation, founded by former House Speaker Newt Gingrich. Bachman will speak about the employer's role in the rise of health care consumerism.

Companies and other entities represented by summit speakers will include Avaya Inc., DIRECTV, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Winterthur North America, the

National Business Coalition on Health, The EPOCH Group LC, Milliman Inc., Hewitt Associates LLC and Fiserv Inc.

The DMLF employer track will focus on proven approaches and best practices for improving employee participation in health management programs, generating positive health and financial outcomes. Presentations include health coaching for employees, participation incentive programs, population health management and predictive modeling for designing programs and measuring success.

The best news: Executives responsible for purchasing and administering health benefits within an organization qualify for a special discounted registration rate for the DMLF—only \$500 for the three-day DMLF, including the half-day Employer Summit. That's less than a third of the standard, non-member rate of \$1,700. Visit the 2006 DMLF site, at [www.dmaa.org/DMLF06](http://www.dmaa.org/DMLF06), for registration and program details, or call **(202) 737-5980**.

### Free Audio Conferences Preview Employer Summit

DMAA will offer a free, three-part audio conference series for employers to preview the DMLF and Employer Summit, and discuss strategies for improving employee health and productivity.

continued

## Roundtable to Focus on Economic Outcomes

As part of efforts to develop consensus guidelines on measuring disease management's economic outcomes, DMAA will co-host a roundtable Sept. 11 with the federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) and the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO).

The invitation-only roundtable, at AHRQ headquarters, in Rockville, Md., will convene employers and other purchasers, and all other stakeholders for comment and guidance on the developing DMAA guidelines.

DMAA launched its outcomes project earlier this year. The project's first phase surveyed DMAA member companies to document various outcomes measurement methodologies now in use and identify existing areas of consensus. The project's second phase includes DMAA-led meetings of stakeholders to discuss areas of divergence in methodologies and build consensus around uniform measurement guidelines. DMAA has also identified and sought input from organizations such as the Institute for Health and Productivity Management on issues including wellness and productivity measurement; and the Case Management Society of America on clinical and other metrics.

DMAA plans to announce final guidelines at the Dec. 3 to 5 Disease Management Leadership Forum, in Denver, and host several activities at the DMLF related to the guidelines announcement.

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## Hewitt Survey Notes Rising Employer Interest In Health Management, Wellness Programs

A majority of employers believe that offering employees tools and programs to help them manage their health can result in "moderate to significant" savings, yet many are not using all resources available to them, a new Hewitt Associates survey shows.

Nonetheless, interest in employee health management is growing, Hewitt concludes in its 2006 Health Care Expectations survey, which collected data from 460 respondents representing more than 6 million employees. As tools and access to price and quality data improve, employers will continue a trend toward partnerships with employees to keep them healthy and productive, and increased integration of management benefits, Hewitt says.

"In the past year we have seen a migration in the managed health arena toward more holistic

program management," Hewitt says. "Rather than a silo approach to managing employees' health, employers are looking to integrate disease management, wellness, preventive care programs, etc."

Employers should consider several elements when deciding on a partnering model, Hewitt advises: consumer-driven health plan designs, with or without associated savings accounts; managed health programs, including disease management; education and decision-making tools; and provider cost and quality information.

Hewitt also identifies consumerism as a trend, noting increasing interest by employers in providing pricing transparency and quality information to employees. The complete report can be viewed in the "Knowledge Center" area of the Hewitt site, at [www.hewitt.com](http://www.hewitt.com).



## Free Audio Conferences Preview Employer Summit (continued)

Monthly, hour-long audio conferences will feature both live telephone audio and Web-based presentations, and will allow for questions and other listener interaction.

September's audio conference topic is, "Workplace Productivity: Self-Reported Employee Health Data." Presenters will be Kim Stattner, Hewitt Associates, and Thomas Parry, PhD, president, Integrated Benefits Institute.

Audio Conferences in October and November will target topics such as "Aligning the Care Spectrum and Employer Needs" and "Consumer-Driven Health Plans."

For specific dates and other participation details, contact DMAA Executive Director **Tracey Moorhead** at (202) 737-5309 or [tmoorhead@dmaa.org](mailto:tmoorhead@dmaa.org).