



# Western Physicians' Alliance



October 2011

## Progress Continues on Physician Working Group

### WPA & SMHP Working Together

The Working Group Committee is gaining momentum. As reported in the August WPA newsletter, a committee was formed to address and review key initiatives identified by both WPA Board of Directors and SMHP. The Working Group Committee members include: SMHP Medical Director, Steve Phillips, MD; WPA Medical Director, Ron Smith, MD; Robert Rand, MD; Ritu Dixon, MD, Vance Alm, MD; Majorie Uhalde, MD; Tim Coughlin, MD; Jim Schaupp, DO; Jennifer Hornback, MD and Paul Smith, MD.

Some topics of discussion to come out of the recent committee meetings include:

#### 1. Tertiary Referrals

The committee reviewed the out-of-area services offered through the University of Utah. To learn more see:

<http://www.wpareno.com/smhp-initiatives/docs/UofU%20Brochure.pdf>

#### 2. Pharmacy Program

Discussions centered on the new step therapy for select medical categories and the new Growth Hormone requirements.

#### 3. Pay for Performance

Dr. Phillips announced a new P4P program through SMHP. The measurements will be based on HEDIS reporting, utilization, efficiency and new technology. Stay tuned for future developments.

#### 4. Back Pain Management

Key topics of interest from the committee included: physical therapy, pain management, surgery and appeals.

If you would like to participate on any of the working group committees, please contact the WPA office at 775-827-5775.

For more information about Saint Mary's Health Plans, visit [www.saintmaryshealthplans.com](http://www.saintmaryshealthplans.com)

### WPA Newsletter Goes Electronic

The September WPA newsletter went live with our first publication by web email. If you would like to receive the WPA newsletter by email, please see the next page. Just fill out the form and get yourself on our email newsletter to find out immediately about news and events that make a difference in your practice.

# ***JOIN THE WESTERN PHYSICIANS' ALLIANCE***

## ***EMAIL NEWSLETTER***

Get yourself on our email newsletter to find out immediately about news and events that make a difference in your medical practice.

Discover quickly key issues that affect the way you practice and other outstanding physician membership benefits offered through the Western Physicians' Alliance.

Formally launched in 1994, Western Physicians' Alliance is an Independent Physician Association (IPA) serving both primary care and specialty physician members in Washoe County, Nevada. During the past 17 years, we have grown to represent over 300 members. WPA continues to build bridges with health care companies and hospitals, as we advocate for our members in Washoe County.

We hope you will want to join our email newsletter today.

**Please fax form to WPA office: 775-333-0229.**

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