Committee Members: Jim Mathews, chair; Jim Bock, Board liaison; Chris Maksym, Board liaison; Christopher Smith, Board liaison; Ghada Abdallah; Jason Beuch; Bill Drake; Mindy Edgar; Yvonne Gallagher; Carrie Germain; Todd Hook; Jim Horton; Joe Leonard; Ronald Melaragni; Steve Marciniak; Brian Peltz; Kevin Roeder; Jeff Rowe; Doug Samojedny; Kristin Schuelke; Deb Sopo; and Jim Szyskowsk


I. Progress Report for 2014 Committee Charges

Charge #1: Continue to establish relationships to promote the value of pharmacy services, pharmacist reimbursement as a health care provider, enhance communications with the major third-party insurance plans/pharmacy benefit managers and develop a working relationship with their pharmacy liaisons.

The Committee has continued to work in conjunction with Medicaid Pharmacy Provider Liaisons and plans to continue this relationship into 2015. The input of the Committee members who are employed by the various health plans has been important to providing unique perspectives and insights. The Committee will be researching and evaluating more opportunities for these members to communicate their opinions and viewpoints to improve relationships between these entities and MPA. The Association continues to be represented on the BCBSM Pharmacy Advisory Council and the Committee will work to integrate this relationship as a core component of its activities. Additionally, the Committee will be extending an invitation to staff of the Michigan Association of Health Plans to attend portions of meeting in 2015.

Charge #2: Monitor, identify and communicate issues related to third parties, including lobbying for or developing a new model of reimbursement for cognitive services. Communicate information to members when appropriate.

The Committee has added discussion related to pharmacy impact on Medicare Star ratings as a regular agenda item. In 2015, the Committee will look to forge new partnerships with third-party payers in the area of cognitive service reimbursement.

Charge #3: Continue to monitor the impact of mandatory mail-order and audit issues on community pharmacy and communicate updates to the membership as appropriate.

A review of recent audit findings has been included as a regular agenda item in meetings. Issues pertaining to mandatory mail-order have not necessarily been discussed in 2014 Committee meetings; however, it continues to be a focus in MPA’s legislative efforts.
Charge #4: Highlight information that pharmacists need to be communicating to third-party payers through MPA publications.

The Committee has sought to raise awareness related to various third-party issues throughout the year, primarily focusing on the issues of limited and preferred networks. Concern regarding Maximum Allowable Cost pricing and similar prescription drug pricing standards has also been a focus of discussion.

Charge #5: Develop a strategy to inform members and interact with them on third-party issues via the new MPA Web site.

This charge has not been addressed.

Charge #6: Consider the House of Delegates resolution(s) referred to the Committee by the MPA Executive Board.

With regard to resolution 14-02, Strengthening Any Willing Provider Language for Medicare Part D, the Committee voted to support the resolution with the recommended changes made by the Consultant Pharmacists Society of Michigan.

II. Other Committee Activities

The Committee focused regularly on MPA’s legislative initiatives related to third-party activities. Updates to Committee members were provided and the Committee was used as a resource to gather input on these issues.

III. Recommendation(s) for Next Year

Charges:

• Charge #1: Work with third-party payers and support legislative efforts to attain pharmacist provider status at the federal level. Monitor and support state and federal legislation that pertain to third-party issues.

• Charge #2: Continue to establish relationships with third-party payers and government officials to promote the value of pharmacy services and to seek adequate reimbursement through pharmacy-provided services.

• Charge #3: Enhance communications with the major third-party insurance plans/pharmacy benefit managers and develop a working relationship with their pharmacy liaisons.

• Charge #4: Monitor, identify and communicate concerns related to third-party payment, including the impact of mandatory mail-order, limited networks, audits and prescription drug pricing standards.

• Charge #5: Highlight information that pharmacists need to be communicating to third-party payers through MPA publications.

• Charge #6: Develop a strategy to inform members and interact with them on third-party issues via the new MPA Web site.

• Charge #7: Provide liaisons from the Third Party Committee to each of the MPA practice section Boards to assist in education related to third-party initiatives.
Committee Members:

- Jim Mathews, chair
- Chris Maksym, Board liaison
- Christopher Smith, Board liaison
- Ghada Abdallah
- Jason Beauch
- Bill Drake
- Mindy Edgar
- Yvonne Gallagher
- Carrie Germain
- Todd Hook
- Jim Horton
- Joe Leonard
- Ronald Melaragni
- Steve Marciniak
- Kimberly Moon
- Brian Peltz
- Kevin Roeder
- Jeff Rowe
- Doug Samojedny
- Kristin Schuelke
- Deb Sopo
- Jim Szyskowski

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Mathews, chair, and Eric Roath, MPA staff liaison