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Letter from the Editor

By Valerie Nelson

Hello! I'm Valerie and the new editor for *Health Watch*. I want to thank Kurt Wrobel for his time and dedication to serving as the editor and wish him well in his next endeavors. However, he is not taking a break from writing just yet as he has contributed an article on the financial similarities and differences between the Affordable Care Act (ACA) health plans and Medicare Part D plans.

This edition of *Health Watch* also features two articles that cover some upcoming activities that will be near and dear to many of us: pricing for the 2016 individual market and expectations for the 2014 ACA financial settlements.

Jeff Rohlinger writes our cover article on pricing considerations for the 2016 individual market. While we have learned a lot over the last two pricing cycles, Jeff is able to tell us about more change and uncertainty that will need to be accounted for in the 2016 pricing cycle.

Earlier this year, the Society of Actuaries (SOA) Health Section Council and Financial Reporting Section Council released a survey to get an understanding of the current actuarial thinking on how to estimate the various 2014 ACA financial settlements. Nancy Hubler provides a review of this survey.

The SOA Health Section has many active subgroups. Two subgroups have articles featured in this edition of *Health Watch*. The subgroups are a great forum for people with like backgrounds to discuss current trends and solutions. From the Payment and System Reform Subgroup, Julian Whitekus contributes a review of physician-led ACOs that were discussed at the ACO Workshop held in the spring. And the Medicaid Subgroup gives us a national perspective on what is happening in that market.

Also featured is a recap of the 2014 Health Meeting by Kristi Bohn, Joanne Fontana, and Rebecca Owen.

Finally, Jen Kilgore Coriell, who is an economist, writes an interesting article on how she has studied economic impacts on health care trends at Humana. ■



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