



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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Health Section News

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Looking Forward to Vancouver

by Daniel L. Wolak

The Health Section and Health Practice Area are sponsoring several forums of interest to health actuaries in conjunction with the SOA Spring Meeting in Vancouver, on June 23-25, 2003.

Dental and Group Life Half-Day Programs

Two one-half day sessions will be offered designed to give participants the opportunity to explore product line issues and potential business solutions with their peers in either the group life or group dental industries. Both of these sessions are scheduled for the morning of Wednesday, June 25. Input from registrants through the completion of an electronic survey prior to each program will determine the topics discussed at the forums. The surveys will include current hot topics in group life and/or group dental and those indicated as highest priority by forum registrants will determine the day's agenda.

For each of these programs, current topics may include:

- **Group Life Open Forum (1/2 Day)**
 - Industry outlook
 - Product design
 - Mortality and waiver of premium experience
 - Marketing trends.
- **Dental Products Open Forum (1/2 Day)**
 - Industry outlook
 - Changes in dental practice and implications on product experience
 - Provider contracting
 - Product design
 - Marketing trends
 - Network communications.

Both of these programs are designed to be highly interactive, with limited formal presentation. Attendees will have the opportunity to discuss relevant, timely and practical issues with their industry colleagues and learn alternative approaches to solving their own business problems.

Health Valuation Lunch & Interactive Forum

As was first done at last year's San Francisco meeting, the Health Section is sponsoring a Health Valuation Lunch & Interactive Forum held immediately after the conclusion of the Vancouver meeting. During lunch, several valuation case studies will be presented for discussion at each table. A moderated interactive forum will be held after lunch to discuss questions arising from the case studies and from the earlier sessions, as well as additional topics raised by attendees. Attendees gain additional insights from more in-depth discussions of health valuation issues.

To set the stage for the valuation lunch, that morning the Health Section will be sponsoring two consecutively held 90-minute sessions on valuation issues. They are:

- **Health Valuation Issues: Traditional Products**

Facilitators will lead participants in a discussion of recent experiences and current issues regarding the valuation of medical and dental insurance and managed care products. Possible topics of discussion include:

 - Interplay between Actuarial Standards of Practice and codification requirements
 - Revision of relevant Actuarial Standards of Practice
 - Deficiency reserves: Insured versus self-insured; statutory versus GAAP
 - Compliance with actuarial opinion requirements.

At the conclusion of this session, attendees will have learned more about the hot topics regarding the valuation of traditional health products.

- **Health Valuation Issues—Nontraditional Health Products**

This session will provide an overview of industry approaches to valuing the liabilities of nontraditional health products such as:

 - Specific and aggregate employer stop loss
 - Provider excess
 - Critical illness.

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Liabilities for losses that have been incurred but not reported and for losses that have been reported but not paid are examined. These liabilities are considered from both insurer and reinsurer perspectives. Attendees will gain a better understanding of nontraditional health valuation methods.

Health Corporate and Chief Actuaries Forum

The SOA is providing a highly interactive program for chief and corporate actuaries working in the health insurance industry. A new format using a combination of small-group discussions, presentations, and a general luncheon keynote will capitalize upon the expertise of health insurance company senior actuaries to thoroughly explore those topics rated most critical by their colleagues. The forum will identify these key issues and provide opportunities to share solutions with colleagues.

A similar format was presented at the SOA Annual Meeting in Boston. Member input determined the topics discussed, which included:

- Medical trends
- Provider relations (contracting, profiling, communications)
- Trends in product development (defined contribution plans, supplemental products);
- Cost management issues
- Data warehousing efforts
- Adequately training future actuaries.

The audience for this forum is restricted to chief and corporate actuaries or professionals working in that capacity for health companies. The forum will be focused on specific concerns and will be highly reliant upon attendees bringing relevant experience to bear on these issues. The SOA respectfully requests that only those who fit the above description participate. Additionally, in order to promote broad representation and active participation, the SOA requests that a company register only one person. Attendees are strongly encouraged to share the work of the forum with their colleagues when they return. 📧



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Spring Meeting Committee Liaison

Have you ever wanted to change something about the SOA's Spring health Meeting? Here's your big chance!!!

The Health Section Council is looking for one or more members to serve as the Health Section's liaison(s) to the Spring Meeting Committee for 2004. By working with the Health Section Council to coordinate the health sessions for the 2004 spring meeting. A Spring Meeting Committee liaison gains a broader understanding of many areas of health actuarial practice, as well as the opportunity to network with health actuaries from across the country. The role is designed for those with no prior experience!

If you would like additional information, please contact Karl Volkmar at (317) 580-8661 or via e-mail at kvolkmar@unitedactuarial.com. 📧

Call for Papers

There will be a panel set up by Ian Duncan at a conference on Artificial Intelligence that will be held next September in Oxford.

The conference is described in full detail online at: http://web.comlab.ox.ac.uk/oucl/conferences/kes2003/Invited_Sessions.html.

The specifics on Ian's session is online at: <http://web.comlab.ox.ac.uk/oucl.conferences/kes2003/Duncan.pdf>.

If you would like additional information, please contact Karl Volkmar at (317) 580-8661 or via e-mail at kvolkmar@unitedactuarial.com. 📧



Health Record Sessions Now Online...

The Boston Annual Meeting Record Sessions are now available online at: www.soa.org/bookstore/record.html. 📧