



Article from

Health Watch

February 2019

Issue 88

Chairperson's Corner

By Karen Shelton

As I write my first Chairperson's Corner, I find myself reflecting on the Health Section Council leadership meeting that wrapped up earlier today. As we were discussing how the Health Section benefits its members, one theme bubbled to the top: *Our members need (and want) to be more broadly engaged in the industry in a timely and relevant manner.* It is extremely beneficial to have a working knowledge of what's going on in the industry as it unfolds, as well as the broad actuarial implications that go along with it. We become more credible sources of information and better actuaries by exploring these topics.

A blessing and a curse of being a health actuary is the diversity of the topics that we touch. The blessing is having a variety of interesting areas in which to work. The "curse," if you will, is the imperative to stay on top of current events in the industry at the right level of depth. For example, at the time of writing, new regulatory guidance on Section 1332 waivers was released. This is an area where I have zero experience; my domain is employer-sponsored health plans. I would not have even heard the buzz were it not for being the Health Section chair. Simply put, I need to find a better way to stay current.



I think the challenge with staying apprised of industry events stems from three areas:

- **Our jobs themselves tend to be fast-paced.** We are so focused on addressing the issues at hand that making time to keep a finger on the pulse of areas outside our immediate sphere of practice is a challenge.
- **Information is changing and can quickly become outdated.** I'm probably not alone in having a backlog of industry articles that I have every good intention of reading. By the time I get to them—assuming that even happens—the information is often “old news.”
- **The amount of information available can be overwhelming.** There's certainly no lack of information today. I just searched the Internet for news on Section 1332 waivers and got 2,230 hits. The challenge is narrowing in to the right level of detail from a reliable, unbiased source.

Wouldn't it be nice if there were a single site that was updated frequently with the latest industry happenings and their actuarial implications? It sure would go a long way to alleviate some of the challenges identified above! To this end, the Health Section Council will be leveraging social media—primarily LinkedIn—to bring you a synopsis of the latest developments in our industry, the skinny on the latest research and reminders for upcoming events. We hope that this will become a valued resource you visit frequently to easily stay informed.

We also encourage you to get involved. You can do this in a variety of ways. First, visit (and follow) the SOA Health Section's LinkedIn group page at [Bit.ly/SOAhealthLI](https://bit.ly/SOAhealthLI). Second, share and comment on posts. It's an opportunity to share information and insights so that we can learn from one another and build a community. Third, volunteer to write a short synopsis on a relevant topic for inclusion on our page. If you'd like to write, please reach out to our volunteer coordinator, Casey Hammer, at Casey.Hammer@milliman.com.

P.S. If you're still curious about Section 1332 waivers, check out the overview on the Health Section LinkedIn page at [Bit.ly/SOAhealthLI](https://bit.ly/SOAhealthLI). ■



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