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# President's Letter

November 9, 2011

## Member input sought for reviews of On-Call, Category B Emergency and MCP Preamble



**Sandra Luscombe, MD**  
President

Dear Colleagues:

The Association is preparing to launch the initial phase of reviews for the On-Call program, Category B Emergency services and the MCP Preamble. Each initiative is being addressed separately and will involve different member stakeholders. Government has agreed to the NLMA's proposal to use a portion of the Clinical Stabilization Fund to recruit outside consultants with expertise in health systems analysis to ensure that each review is completed properly and in a timely manner. As part of the process, I would like to give all members an opportunity to share their most critical concerns and suggestions on how to address them.

Below you will find an explanation of each review followed by a set of two questions. Please take a moment and answer each question **in the sections that apply to you** and forward your input in writing to the NLMA by **November 30, 2011**. Submissions can be received by e-mail, fax or postal mail. Please include your name and contact information.

Your involvement in this exercise is crucial to ensuring the success of each review and the development of recommendations that address physicians' needs. The information you provide will be vetted through a physician working group that will produce recommendations for the NLMA Board of Directors. We will continue to provide members with updates as each initiative unfolds.

### **On-Call Program Review**

The review of the On-Call program is one of the top priority issues for the NLMA given that it affects such a large number of people and is a significant source of frustration for many physicians. The current On-Call program has been in place for more than a decade and it has become evident that many of the call arrangements need to be modified and improved. The review will assess the functionality of each call arrangement and consider whether other alternatives may be viable and preferable. A request for proposals (RFP) has now been sent to potential consultants, whose work will be overseen by a physician steering committee. As is indicated in the MOA, increases to the on-call budget will not be allocated until the review is completed.

**Question 1:** What are the three (3) most important issues, problems or concerns you have with respect to the On-Call program?

**Question 2:** What do you suggest is the best way to address each of the three (3) concerns you raised?

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**Category B Emergency Services Review**

The NLMA will undertake a review of the current compensation model for physicians who provide ER coverage at DHCS-designated Category B facilities. The review will determine the problems and possible recommendations for improving the payment model for off-site coverage. A number of Category B ER physicians have been asked to participate in a working group that will oversee the review and develop recommendations for the NLMA Board of Directors.

**Question 1:** What are the three (3) most important issues, problems or concerns you have with respect to Category B Emergency services?

**Question 2:** What do you suggest is the best way to address each of the three (3) concerns you raised?

**MCP Preamble Review**

At the AGM in June, delegates passed a motion calling on the NLMA to conduct a comprehensive review of the MCP Preamble. The goal of the review is to improve the usability of the preamble and to develop recommendations that better reflect current practice patterns. The Association is now in the process of setting up a physician working group to oversee the review. All feedback collected by members will be considered and prioritized by the working group, which will include broad representation from fee-for-service (FFS) groups.

**Question 1:** What are the three (3) most important issues, problems or concerns you have with respect to the MCP Preamble?

**Question 2:** What do you suggest is the best way to address each of the three (3) concerns you raised?

Member participation is key to ensuring that each working group responds to the concerns of all physicians. I look forward to hearing from you in the coming days.

Regards,



Sandra Luscombe, MD  
President