

MMA Testifies on Payment Reform Before Advisory Council on Health System Development

On Friday, December 11, 2009, MMA EVP Gordon Smith presented testimony on behalf of MMA to the Advisory Council on Health Systems Development on the subject of payment reform. The testimony is available on the MMA website at www.mainemed.com (under spotlight section). The MMA urged the Advisory Council to pilot any new payment models prior to widespread adoption and noted the danger of unintended consequences. The Association also noted that payment reform needed to be considered in the context of the broader health system reform debate, and that adjustments in the report might be required depending upon the results of the health system reform debate in Washington. Finally, MMA noted that some fee-for-service payment will still be necessary in any system likely to be designed.

The Advisory Council received public comment on its *Proposed Report to the Legislature on Payment Reform in Maine* which is due to the 124th Maine Legislature in February, 2010.

In addition to MMA, additional parties commenting on the draft included the Maine Hospital Association, the Maine Association of Health Plans, Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield, Consumers for Affordable Health Care, MaineHealth, the Maine Primary Care Association, and the Maine Bureau of Insurance.

Three physicians are among the membership of the Council, including Lani Graham, M.D., M.P.H., Maroulla Gleaton, M.D., and Josh Cutler, M.D. The Council is chaired by Brian Rines, Ph.D.