Updates

UPDATE # 4

SEPTEMBER 4, 1997

Reminder about Phase I submissions deadline

A reminder that the deadline for Phase I submissions is Monday, September 15.

Anyone interested in responding in writing to the Commission´s draft principles and process is invited to do so. The draft documents to refer to are:

1. Principles of RBRVS Process
2. Schedule of Process
3. Principles of RVS Methodology

These draft documents have been widely circulated, but if you do not have copies of them, contact your Section Chair or RVS contact or the RBRVS Commission.

Early warning regarding Phase II!

Following the review of all submissions received by September 15, the Commission will issue a final report on principles and process and work on Phase II will begin.

In early October a call will be made for submissions regarding the determination of a methodology for the development of a RBRVS. The Commission will be seeking specific methodologies developed by Sections or general positions on the development of a methodology. The Commission will also be seeking opinion on the determination of practice costs, the inclusion of opportunity costs in a RBRVS and the development of service relative value units (as described in the principles that will be adopted by the Commission after Phase I).

Commission meeting with Drs. Phil Lee and Peter Braun

In January 1992, following a congressional mandate, the U.S. Medicare program adopted a new payment system for physician services: instead of basing payment rates on what were commonly labelled as "customary, prevailing and reasonable" charges, the federal government established a Medicare fee schedule based on a Resource-Based Relative Value Scale.

By 1995, approximately 30% of the U.S. private sector plans, 50% of Blue Cross/Blue Shield plans and 44% of State Medicaid programs had adopted the Medicare fee schedule.

July 3

May 29

April 8

March 30

February 4

1997

November 19

October 23

September 4

August 7

July 29

July 2

Two weeks ago, members of the Commission met with Dr. Phil Lee, former Assistant Secretary of Health in the United States and founder of the Institute for Health Policy at the University of California in San Francisco. Dr. Lee chaired the original Congressional committee that looked at a relative value reform of physician payment in the United States and chaired the Physician Payment Review Commission ("PPRC") as it worked towards the adoption and implementation of a RBRVS.

This past week, the Commission met with Dr. Peter Braun, who was a co-principal with Dr. William Hsiao at the Harvard School of Public Health in the development of the framework for defining the resource costs of physicians´ services. Dr. Braun was intimately involved in the subsequent RBRVS studies between 1986 and 1992 that led to the adoption of a RBRVS in the U.S.

Both meetings provided useful background insight and information. Dr. Lee spoke at length about the rationale and process in the U.S. that resulted in the implementation of a RBRVS and provided an update on what has taken place since 1992. Dr. Braun reviewed the research and results of each phase of the Harvard study and spoke in detail about some of the more challenging issues in the American process such as cross-specialty linkages and defining practice costs.

Meeting with the OMA Central Tariff Committee

Next week, the Commission will be meeting with the OMA Central Tariff Committee to discuss its review of fee codes since the publication of the 1992 Schedule of Benefits.