

**Independence Blue Cross Physician Advisory Committee
Meeting minutes for Thursday, May 28, 2009
G. Fred DiBona Building, 1901 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA**

Attendees: I. Steven Udvarhelyi, M.D., Anthony V. Coletta, M.D., Charles Cutler, M.D., M. Arif Hashmi, M.D., John J. Kelly, M.D., Scott R. Schaffer, M.D., C. Richard Schott, M.D., and Dennis H. Tafflin, D.O.

Excused: Patrick J. Brennan, M.D., Janis G. Chester, M.D., Anthony J. DiMarino Jr., M.D., and Sanand R. Menon, M.D.

IBC supporting associates present: Tressa Harley and Dale Mandel, M.D.

I. Old business

Feedback from draft policies submitted to the committee – The committee relayed that the policy review process is working well. This process provides a welcomed avenue for not only Physician Advisory Committee (PAC) committee members to provide input to medical policies under review, but also to solicit like-specialty opinion. Additionally, PAC members noted the positive responses received from their peers about their opportunities to participate in policy development and how it relates to new trends in health care. Independence Blue Cross (IBC) will continue this review process and monitor it in its existing format.

II. New business/topics discussed

- A. *Ingenix*[®] – Dr. Cutler expressed interest in our use of Ingenix. Dr. Udvarhelyi conveyed that Ingenix is used for reimbursement of non-participating providers on a limited basis, for a limited number of products. Most of our member contracts provide a fee schedule for reimbursement of non-participating providers.
- B. *National health care reform* – Dr. Udvarhelyi led a discussion on health care reform and obtained input from the committee. The committee discussed the value of a standardized national fee schedule.
- C. *Utilization management* – Dr. Coletta is a participant in a plan-sponsored focus group that discusses utilization of services. He requested that the findings from these groups be shared with the committee. The committee decided that each member will contribute three or more suggestions related to improving quality and utilization statistics. IBC will compile and present these at the next meeting.
- D. *Web inquiries* – Communications from the web were presented and discussed. There were no formal recommendations.

III. Action items/adjournment

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 17, 2009.