



ADVOCACY

July 2, 2010	CC: All
<u>Health Care Reform Update: Temporary High Risk Pools Offer Coverage To Eligible Uninsured</u>	

July 1 marks the launch date of new health insurance programs offering coverage to uninsured individuals with a pre-existing health condition, including MS. As a stopgap to the coverage options and protections for everyone beginning in 2014, new policies will be available for purchase through temporary high risk pools. Enrollees in the temporary programs will make a smooth transition to new coverage when these phase out in 2014. A Fact Sheet on the program is available at <http://www.kff.org/healthreform/upload/8066.pdf>, and is highlighted on the Society's national website in the 'Health Care Reform Update' section.

Eligibility for coverage through a temporary high risk pool is strictly limited to the following:

- individuals that have had *no health coverage of any kind for at least six months*, with no exceptions. Individuals with current insurance may not upgrade their current coverage to a temporary high risk pool, even if the temporary pool has lower premiums or better benefits than their current coverage. (Note that assistance from a drug manufacturer's patient assistance program is not considered health insurance.)
- people with a verifiable pre-existing health condition that would otherwise disqualify them from a commercial health insurance plan. Documentation of a pre-existing condition, or proof of denial for coverage from another health plan may be required with a completed application.
- US citizens and legal residents.

Many features of the temporary high risk pools, including cost, benefits and other design features, application procedures and more may vary from state to state. Many details are not yet publicly available, but will be provided as soon as possible. Interested individuals are encouraged to check the new national web portal www.healthcare.gov, or with their state department of insurance for complete details and application information. The Society's IRC staff is well prepared to help any in the MS community seeking information about the temporary high risk pools or other coverage options, and the national website will be updated as additional details become available.

The federal health care reform law provided every state government the opportunity to establish their own temporary high risk pool, or make use of a new national pool. At this writing, at least 20 states' plans have been approved and began taking applications from individuals on or around July 1st or benefits to begin in August. Plans for an additional ten states' programs are still in formation and may take longer. It is important for uninsured individuals to know they can buy into the national pool if their state chose not to create its own, even if their state is participating in a legal challenge to the federal reform legislation.

Because the funding for the pools is limited, many are concerned that enrollment caps or other restrictions may be necessary before 2014. For that reason, we are encouraging those without insurance to enroll promptly.

Finally, a note of caution. Reports of scams have already emerged regarding false sales schemes for Medicare Advantage, prescription drug and other health insurance products and services in the wake of the reform law's enactment. Questionable or misleading sales activity should be reported immediately to the state department of insurance.



DEVELOPMENT

July 2, 2010	CC: Chapter Presidents
	Marketing
IEG Corporate Relations Summer Summit Pre-Session Survey	
Action Requested/Deadline: July 14, 2010	

We are excited to bring IEG – the industry leaders in sponsorship strategy and training – to the Summer Summit for two corporate relations sessions on Thursday, August 12th.

With IEG headquartered in Chicago, these sessions present a tremendous opportunity for chapter staff involved in corporate partnership development to gain insights into high level sponsorship strategy, trends in cause and event marketing, competitive intelligence, innovative partnership ideas and more!

To help our IEG experts prepare for the conference and ensure chapter staff walk away with valuable insights and actionable partnership strategies, we ask that you complete a brief corporate relations survey by **COB Wednesday, 7/14/2010**. To access the IEG pre-workshop survey, please click on the following link:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/P9DR7ZV>

If you have not registered for the Summer Summit, you can do so at

<https://meetings.nmss.org/attendee/event/summersummit.wv>

For questions regarding the IEG corporate relations sessions, please contact Julie Stone Hurley at julie.stone.hurley@nmss.org or (303) 698-6100 x15259.



DEVELOPMENT

July 2, 2010	CC: Chapter Presidents
2010 All Chapter Golden Circle Conference Call Reminder	
Action Requested/Deadline: Register by Friday, July 2	

Conference calls are scheduled to update Chapter Presidents and members of the ODIM and ART teams on the results of the 2010 Golden Circle pilot program and plans for all chapters to be involved in the Golden Circle program in FY2011. Chapter Presidents may invite Golden Circle/Individual Giving staff to join them in attending one of the conference calls.

Please join Mary Milgrom and Graham McReynolds in your choice of the following three scheduled conference calls:

Thursday, July 8, 2010 at 3:00 pm ET, 2:00 pm CT, 1:00 pm MT, 12:00 pm PT

to register for this meeting go to

<https://nmss.webex.com/nmss/j.php?ED=137167252&RG=1&UID=1037665252&RT=MjMxMQ%3D%3D>

Monday, July 12, 2010 at 2:00 pm ET, 1:00 pm CT, 12:00 pm MT, 11:00 pm PT

To register for this meeting go to

<https://nmss.webex.com/nmss/j.php?ED=137167697&RG=1&UID=1037665477&RT=MjMxMQ%3D%3D>

Thursday, July 15, 2010 at 3:00 pm ET, 2:00 pm CT, 1:00 pm MT, 12:00 pm PT

to register for this meeting go to

<https://nmss.webex.com/nmss/j.php?ED=137167792&RG=1&UID=1037666832&RT=MjMxMQ%3D%3D>

For additional information contact:

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RESEARCH/CLINICAL UPDATE

cc: Chapter President, Programs

July 2, 2010

MS Research and Clinical Trainees Connect at the 2010 Tykeson Fellows Conference

The 2nd Tykeson Fellows Conference on MS brought 57 young National MS Society research and clinical fellows together to learn about each other's latest research efforts, as well as interact with the attendees of two important MS meetings – the 2010 Annual Meeting of the Consortium of MS Centers (CMSC) and the 15th Annual Meeting of the Americas Committee for Treatment and Research in MS (ACTRIMS). These meetings were held together June 2-5, 2010, in San Antonio, Texas. A wrap-up of the ACTRIMS/CMSC meeting will be posted in the coming weeks; for now, read more on the ACTRIMS

(http://main.nationalmssociety.org/site/PageServer?pagename=HOM_ACTRIMS_homepage) and CMSC (<http://annualmeeting.msca.org/>) meeting Web sites.

The fellows conference was convened by the Society and launched by a generous contribution from Mr. Donald Tykeson, active volunteer and Honorary Life Director of the Society's National Board of Directors, and supported by other donations.*

“We’ve made great progress in slowing down the disease but finding the cause and the cure has so far eluded us,” said Mr. Tykeson in his welcoming remarks. “This meeting is an opportunity for global networking and enjoying a sense of community among MS researchers. I hope and expect that this collaboration will lead to new research ideas.”

The conference featured 11 talks from fellows, and another 54 presentations appeared as posters both at the Tykeson meeting and in a special joint poster session with ACTRIMS. The topics ranged from investigations of the immune attack that is launched on the brain and spinal cord in MS to studies of patient care and rehabilitation.

Thomas G. Forsthuber, MD, PhD (University of Texas at San Antonio) – a long-time grantee and volunteer of the Society – spoke at a special dinner for fellows and other attendees. Dr. Forsthuber began his MS research career as a Society Harry Weaver Neuroscience Scholar. He talked about the importance of remaining committed to MS research and of connecting with the local National MS Society Chapter. Dr. Forsthuber has donated generously of his time to the Society's Lone Star Chapter.

One strategy for keeping the best and brightest engaged in MS research is to enhance young investigators' career trajectory and competitiveness. Even in the world of science, grantees are constantly faced with the need to present their ideas to earn funding or develop collaborations, so the conference also featured a session on building effective communications skills.

“This Tykeson meeting is terrific,” said Tiffany Braley, MD, a fellow at the University of Michigan working with Benjamin Segal, MD. “It brings everything MS together. This is so important because the MS field is becoming more and more collaborative.”

Many attendees spoke highly of the experience of being a National MS Society fellow. “Young investigator funding is so hard to get,” said Wensheng Lin, MD, PhD, who is completing a fellowship at the University of South Alabama and is investigating the possible protective role of an immune messenger protein in MS. “I'm so grateful to be able to continue this work.”

-- Research & Clinical Programs

*Additional support for the Tykeson Fellows Conference was provided by Genentech, Genzyme Corporation, Sanofi-aventis, and Bayer HealthCare, as well as Teva Neuroscience, which sponsored the “Effective Communication Skills” workshop.