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**PULASKI COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY**

# NEWS

*When you think professional, ethical, quality healthcare, think physicians of Pulaski County Medical Society.*

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## 2008 President's Message Kemp Skokos, MD

### "Organized Medicine & the Business of Healthcare Delivery"

Bringing physicians together represents one of OUR Pulaski County Medical Society's (PCMS) most important functions. For several years, a group of like-minded physicians have worked to better communicate with insurance companies regarding issues that impact all our medical practices.

Traditional networking opportunities have spawned and expanded a close-knit Central Arkansas medical Community. Yet, with ever-increasing demands on their time, doctors must forge business alliances in order to ensure financial stability as they continue practicing medicine. This has created the rise of separate - and occasionally disparate - groups that can create a reluctance to collaborate in a search for common ground.

Yet, nearly every physician in private practice agrees on one thing: Health care insurance contracting looms as a mystery for us to puzzle over. A prime example is fee schedules.

The PCMS Carrier Relations Committee has worked for eight years to facilitate interaction between physicians and healthcare payer groups. Last year, the PCMS Carrier Relations Committee contacted six major carriers attempting to make the process of fee schedules more transparent by asking for answers to the following questions:

1. How often are fee schedules updated?
2. How can we obtain the fee schedule?
3. Is there notification of a fee schedule update?
4. Does everybody's fee schedule get updated at the time of implementation of the new fee schedule?
5. When was your (company's) last fee schedule updated?

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