

## Press Release

# GAO Makes MedPAC Appointments

WASHINGTON, DC (May 30, 2013) – Gene L. Dodaro, Comptroller General of the United States and head of the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), today announced the appointment of one new member and the reappointment of five existing members to the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC).

“MedPAC plays an important role in ensuring the effective stewardship of Medicare, a key federal responsibility. This year’s MedPAC nominees were exceptionally well qualified, and we are pleased that we had such an outstanding pool of individuals to draw from,” said Dodaro.

The newly appointed member is **Jon B. Christianson, PhD**, Professor in the Division of Health Policy and Management at the School of Public Health at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. His term will expire in April 2016.

The reappointed members, whose terms will also expire in April 2016, are **Scott Armstrong**, President and Chief Executive Officer of Group Health Cooperative; **Katherine Baicker, PhD**, Professor of Health Economics in the Department of Health Policy and Management at the Harvard School of Public Health; **Herb B. Kuhn**, President and CEO, Missouri Hospital Association; **Mary Naylor, PhD, RN**, Marian S. Ware Professor in Gerontology and Director of the NewCourtland Center for Transitions and Health at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing; and **Cori Uccello, FSA**, Senior Health Fellow of the American Academy of Actuaries.

Congress established MedPAC in 1997 to analyze access to care, cost and quality of care, and other key issues affecting Medicare. MedPAC advises Congress on payments to health plans participating in the Medicare Advantage program and providers in Medicare’s traditional fee-for-service programs. The Comptroller General is responsible for naming new commission members.

Commissioners whose terms will expire in April 2015 are **Alice Coombs, MD**, Critical Care Specialist and Anesthesiologist, South Shore Hospital, Weymouth, MA; **Glenn M. Hackbarth, JD** (Chair); **Jack Hoadley, PhD**, Research Professor, Health Policy Institute, Georgetown University, Washington, DC; **David Nerenz, PhD**, Director of the Center for Health Policy and Health Services Research, Henry Ford Health System, Detroit, MI; **Rita Redberg, MD**, Professor, Clinical Medicine, University of California at San Francisco Medical Center, San Francisco, CA; and **Craig Samitt, MD**, President and Chief Executive Officer, Dean Health System, Inc., Madison, WI.

Commissioners whose terms will expire in April 2014 are **Peter W. Butler, MHSA**, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Rush University Medical Center; **Michael Chernew, PhD**, (Vice Chair) Professor of Health Care Policy at Harvard Medical School; **Willis D. Gradison, Jr., MBA**, a Scholar in Residence in the Health Sector Management Program at Duke University’s Fuqua School of Business; **William J. Hall, MD**, Director of the Center for Healthy Aging at the University of Rochester School of Medicine; and **George N. Miller, Jr., MHSA**, Chief Executive Officer, Okmulgee Memorial Hospital, Okmulgee, OK.

Below is a brief biography of the new commission member. For more information about MedPAC, contact Mark Miller, MedPAC's executive director, at (202) 220-3700. Other calls should be directed to Chuck Young in GAO's Office of Public Affairs at (202) 512-4800. The official announcement will be published in the Federal Register.

**Jon B. Christianson, PhD**, is the James A. Hamilton Chair in Health Policy and Management in the Division of Health Policy and Management at the School of Public Health at the University of Minnesota. His research has addressed the areas of health finance, payment structures, rural health care, managed care payment, and the quality and design of care systems. Dr. Christianson serves on the Institute of Medicine's Board on Health Care Services and on the Editorial Board of the American Journal of Managed Care. He recently served on the Institute of Medicine's Committee on Geographic Adjustment Factors in Medicare Payment and has chaired AcademyHealth's Annual Research Meeting. Dr. Christianson received his PhD in economics from the University of Wisconsin.

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