



To: Current and Prospective EMPAQ® Users
DATE: April 13, 2011
RE: EMPAQ® Updates for the 2010 Program Year Data Collection Cycle

The National Business Group on Health and its Institute on Health, Productivity and Human Capital have pledged to lead the way in providing employers with solutions to their most urgent health, productivity and human capital management challenges. With that commitment in mind, I am pleased to share with you our timelines and enhancements to EMPAQ® for the upcoming year.

Timeline for Collection of 2010 Program Year Data

The EMPAQ® data collection period will be open from May 2 – June 15, 2011 for both aggregate and claims level data. We will accept data for the 2010 program year. Individual company benchmarking reports will be delivered on August 26, 2011 and the EMPAQ® Annual Report will be delivered in late October 2011. The Business Group will continue to offer EMPAQ® free of charge to all of our members. Non-Business Group members are welcomed to participate for a fee.

Updated Metrics and Refined Processes

Members of the Business Group's EMPAQ® Committee and the EMPAQ® Technical Advisory Group have generously offered their time and expertise to clarify some of our metric definitions and to further standardize the claims-based data intake process for enhanced benchmarking and research capabilities. While no significant changes have been made to EMPAQ® for this year, the clarification of several key definitions will continue to improve the quality of data received.

I would like to acknowledge and thank the following individuals for their leadership: Marybeth Stevens-Carhidi of General Electric Company and the chair of the EMPAQ® Committee, Neil Austin of OptumHealth and co-chair of the EMPAQ® Technical Advisory Group, and Michael Neal of Aon Hewitt and co-chair of the EMPAQ® Technical Advisory Group.

Special Awards for Data Suppliers

For the second year, we will continue to recognize high performing data suppliers who submit a large volume of high quality data for their clients to EMPAQ®. Recipients of the EMPAQ® Data Supplier Seals are honored in one of three categories: Premier Plus, Premier and Newcomer. Awards will be given at the 25th National Conference on Health, Productivity and Human Capital on October 25 – 27, 2011 in Boston, MA.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact the EMPAQ® Helpdesk at empaq@businessgrouphealth.org or visit www.empaq.org. Thank you for your support and we look forward to working with you again this year.

Best regards,

Helen

Helen Darling
President and CEO, National Business Group on Health