



**National
Business
Group on
Health**



INSTITUTE ON
Health,
Productivity,
AND **Human**
Capital

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Creative Health Benefits Solutions for Today, Strong Policy for Tomorrow

To: Current and Prospective EMPAQ[®] Users and Strategic Data Partners
Date: February 23, 2010
RE: EMPAQ[®] Updates for the 2010 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 2010 Cycle

The EMPAQ[®] data collection period will be open from May 10 – July 1, 2010 for both aggregate and claims level data. We will accept data from the 2009 program year as well as any historic data you would like to submit. Individual company benchmarking reports will be delivered mid-August 2010 and the EMPAQ[®] Annual Summary Research Report will be delivered late October 2010 (as a PDF). 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.

Expanded Research Agenda

We are extremely fortunate that Dee Edington, PhD and his outstanding team at the University of Michigan Health Management Research Center (UM-HMRC) will continue providing their expertise to this project as our distinguished research partner. UM-HMRC will support our expanded research agenda by helping the Business Group carry out more research-related activities using EMPAQ[®] data.

The expansion of our strategic partnership with UM-HMRC brings us a renewed energy and focus on the future in helping employers understand the health risks in their populations, improving their employees' health status and highlighting best practices for the improvement of existing programs and the development of new ones.

Updated Metrics and Refined Processes

Members of our 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.

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

Best Practice Sharing

We have launched a targeted marketing strategy to further develop participation and report value for a number of industry peer groups. Industry-specific, best practice sharing workshops with EMPAQ® results are planned at the 24th National Conference on Health, Productivity, and Human Capital on September 14, 2010 in Washington, DC.

Once again, I thank all of you who made these enhancements possible. 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,



Stacy Hodgins
Director, Institute for Health, Productivity and Human Capital