

## Membership now carries 2 -year option

Notices have gone out to those persons whose dues expire at the end of this year, with a new option to renew for two years at a discount. If you have not received your notice, please email us at [info@imgma.org](mailto:info@imgma.org)

New members can also join with this discounted option. Details are on the website [www.imgma.org](http://www.imgma.org)

## Medicaid expansion redux?

The Jindal administration has staunchly refused Medicaid expansion, but is the political climate in Louisiana changing? Do gubernatorial candidates offer hope that the subject might be revisited? Read some recent comments [in this blog](#) at the Louisiana State Medical Society [www.lsms.org](http://www.lsms.org)

## Consider certification

Continuing education encourages you to keep learning, improving and seeking best practices. You can demonstrate personal and professional development and stay up to date with changes in the medical practice management field. [Learn more here](#)

*Tara Allen, MBA, FACMPE, is our representative to the American College of Medical Practice Executives which offers you opportunities to advance in your profession. [Log in to learn more from her.](#)*

## CMS reopens MU hardship process

(This bulletin courtesy MGMA [www.mgma.com](http://www.mgma.com))

As a result of MGMA advocacy efforts, CMS is reopening the submission period for MU hardship exception applications to avoid the 2015 penalty, available for those eligible professionals (EPs) who were unable to fully implement 2014 Edition Certified EHR Technology (CEHRT) due to EHR vendor certification delays and issues. The new application deadline is **Nov. 30, 2014.**

[APPLICATION HERE](#)



In a Sept. 22 letter to the agency, MGMA raised the issue of new EPs not being able to meet the Oct. 1 attestation deadline using the new reporting options included in the 2014 flexibility final rule. MGMA *also* sent a joint letter with the AMA strongly urging CMS to extend the original July 1 hardship exception application deadline. The reopened hardship exception application submission period applies to the following circumstances only:

- (1) EPs that have been unable to fully implement 2014 Edition CEHRT due to delays in 2014 Edition CEHRT availability; and
- (2) Eps who were unable to attest by Oct. 1, 2014 using the flexibility options provided in the CMS 2014 CEHRT Flexibility Rule.

While the application extension must go through the formal rulemaking process, CMS plans to begin accepting applications immediately.



News  
continues

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Owen Dahl, MBA, FACHE, LSSMBB, presented a four-hour workshop in Lafayette last month covering the CMS programs of Meaningful Use and the Values Based Payment Modifier. Our Education Committee is working on additional events to be held during 2015. (Workshop photos here and on page 1 are by Tricia Duhon Photography in Lafayette).

You can comment on DHH transition plan

CMS has issued regulations defining permissible settings for states to pay for Medicaid home and community-based services (HCBS).

The Louisiana Office of Behavioral Health has developed a transition plan and the public can provide input on this plan.

The plan and related documents [can be viewed here](#). Comments and questions may be submitted to [obh-hcbs@la.gov](mailto:obh-hcbs@la.gov) until Nov. 2, 2014.

## Workshop Sponsors



Progressive Medical Services Inc.





### Blast from the Past

It was a cold day in New Orleans as the 2007 Board of Directors held their annual retreat meetings at the Beauregard House & Museum. Seated: (l-r) Lisa Conner, Sheryl Benton, Maxine Minton and Judy Fern. Standing: Ed Silvey, Becky Hutchinson, Stewart Clark and Louise Derise.

## Legal Consent expanded in Louisiana

What to do when a healthcare provider cannot locate a person in the standard line of consent? A new law adds two more classes of individuals who may consent on behalf of patients who lack the capacity to consent for themselves.

[See details here in this recent Lammico newsletter.](#)

**CORRECTION** In our last issue, we listed new members to date, and the name of Adrian Percy was inadvertently omitted. He is president of Percy & Company in Baton Rouge, and is an affiliate member of MGMA-Louisiana. [www.percyandcompany.com](http://www.percyandcompany.com)

