

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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GAO Announces Appointment of Members to the  
Medicare Payment Advisory Commission

Comptroller General David M. Walker has appointed four new members and reappointed three current members to the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC). MedPAC, pursuant to the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (Public Law 105-33), replaced the Physician Payment Review Commission and the Prospective Payment Assessment Commission. The terms of the appointments are staggered and range from one to three years. The official announcement will be published in the Federal Register. These appointments begin May 1.

Members appointed for three-year terms are **Beatrice S. Braun, M.D.**, member, American Association of Retired Persons Board of Directors; **Floyd D. Loop, M.D.**, chief executive officer and chairman, Board of Governors, The Cleveland Clinic Foundation; **Janet Newport** (reappointed), corporate vice president of regulatory affairs, PacifiCare Health Systems, Inc.; **Carol Raphael**, president and chief executive officer, Visiting Nurse Service of New York; and **Mary K. Wakefield, Ph.D.**, professor and director, Center for Health Policy and Ethics, George Mason University.

Reappointed for a two-year term is **Spencer Johnson**, president, Michigan Health & Hospital Association.

Reappointed for a one-year term is **Donald T. "Ted" Lewers, M.D.**, a practicing physician from Easton, Maryland.

Commissioners whose terms expire in April 2000 are **Peter Kemper, Ph.D.**, vice president of the Center for Studying Health System Change; **Judith Lave, Ph.D.**, professor of health economics at the University of Pittsburgh; **Hugh W. Long, Ph.D., J.D.**, professor of health systems management at the Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine; **William A. MacBain**, founding principal of MacBain & MacBain, LLC; and **Gerald M. Shea**, assistant to the president for government affairs at the AFL-CIO. Commissioners whose terms expire in April 2001 are **Woodrow A. Myers Jr., M.D.**, director of health care management for the Ford Motor Company; **Joseph P. Newhouse, Ph.D.**, vice chair and professor of health policy and management at Harvard University; **Alice Rosenblatt, F.S.A., M.A.A.A.**, senior vice president of Merger and Acquisition Planning at Wellpoint Health Networks; **John W. Rowe, M.D.**, president of the Mount Sinai School of Medicine and president and chief executive officer of Mount Sinai-NYU Medical Center and Health System; and **Gail R. Wilensky, Ph.D.**, chair and senior fellow at Project HOPE Center for Health Affairs.

Following are brief biographies of the new and reappointed commission members. For further information, contact Murray N. Ross, Ph.D., at (202) 653-7220.

**Beatrice S. Braun, M.D.**, is a member of the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) Board of Directors. She currently chairs the board's Committee on Human Resources. She previously served as National Secretary/Historian of AARP. Dr. Braun is a member of the State Advisory Council for the Florida Department of Elder Affairs and serves on the board of directors for the Area Agency on Aging. Before her retirement in 1989, Dr. Braun was founder and director of a day treatment program for people with severe and persistent mental illness at St. Vincent's Hospital in Harrison, N.Y. She is a past president of the American Association for Partial Hospitalization. She also had a private practice in psychiatry for 16 years and was named a fellow of the American Psychiatric Association. Prior to her psychiatric specialization, Dr. Braun served for 17 years as a family physician and missionary in South Korea.

**Spencer Johnson** has been president of the Michigan Health and Hospitals Association since 1985. Previously, he was executive vice president of the Hospital Association of New York State. Mr. Johnson's prior experience includes staff positions on the U.S. Senate Committee on Human Resources and in the U.S. House of Representatives. He was associate director of the Domestic Council for Health, Social Security, and Income Assistance from 1976 to 1977, where he was responsible for policy planning and development for President Gerald Ford. Mr. Johnson was also a member of the American Hospital Association's State Issues Forum and Council on Allied and Government Relations. He has served on various boards, including those of the Albany Medical College, the Washington Hospital Center, the Alpha Center, and the Genesee Regional Health Planning Council. Mr. Johnson received a B.A. in journalism from St. Bonaventure University and an M.P.A in health policy and planning from Cornell University.

**Donald "Ted" Lewers, M.D.**, a practicing nephrologist and internist, is on the staff at the Memorial Hospital in Easton, Maryland. A member of the board of trustees of the American Medical Association, Dr. Lewers is medical director of the Easton Renal Treatment Center, chairman of the board and chief executive officer at the Medical Mutual Liability Insurance Company of Maryland, and chairman of the board of the Health Enhancement Center, Inc. Long active in organized medicine, Dr. Lewers served as president of the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland from 1985 to 1986 and was vice chair of the American Medical Association's Relative Value Scale Update Committee. Dr. Lewers received a B.A. from the University of Maryland and a medical degree from the University of Maryland School of Medicine. He completed an internship at the University of Maryland in Baltimore, a residency at Maryland General Hospital in Baltimore, and a fellowship in nephrology at Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, D.C.

**Floyd D. Loop, M.D.**, has been chief executive officer and chairman, Board of Governors, The Cleveland Clinic Foundation, since 1989. Prior to joining the staff of The Cleveland Clinic Foundation in 1970, Dr. Loop was a general surgeon in the U.S. Air Force. He has held a number of national posts and served on numerous committees for the American Heart Association, the American College of Surgeons, the American College of Chest Physicians, the American Board of Thoracic Surgery, and the American

Association for Thoracic Surgery. In 1998, Dr. Loop was president of the American Association for Thoracic Surgery. He has also served on panels run by the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, the Health Care Financing Administration, and the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Loop received a B.S. from Purdue University and a medical degree from George Washington University. He did general surgery residencies at George Washington University and a thoracic and cardiovascular surgery residence at The Cleveland Clinic Foundation.

**Janet G. Newport** is corporate vice president of regulatory affairs at PacifiCare Health Systems, Inc. The department she manages is responsible for monitoring and supporting internal operational compliance, policy development, and regulatory interpretation, and acts as the liaison with key regulatory agencies. Ms. Newport's public policy responsibilities include Medicare, Medicaid, and the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program. She has served on several American Association of Health Plan technical and advisory committees and is an industry representative on the Medicare Council, which meets regularly with the Health Care Financing Administration's (HCFA) senior management. In addition, Ms. Newport has served as an industry representative on internal HCFA technical committees and is a former chair of the American Managed Care and Review Association's Medicare Task Force. Ms. Newport has a degree in political science from American University.

**Carol Raphael** is president and chief executive officer of the Visiting Nurse Service (VNS) of New York, the largest voluntary home health care organization in the United States. Under Ms. Raphael's leadership, VNS created the New York State Medicaid Managed Long-Term Care Program and the Medicare Community Nursing Organization. Ms. Raphael also developed the VNS Center for Home Care Policy and Research, which conducts policy-relevant research focusing on the management, cost, quality, and outcomes of home and community-based services. Before joining VNS, Ms Raphael worked for 10 years at the New York City Human Resources Administration, leaving the Administration as executive deputy commissioner of the Income and Medical Assistance Administration. Ms. Raphael has served on several Robert Wood Johnson Foundation advisory committees and New York State panels, including the New York State Hospital Review and Planning Council.

**Mary K. Wakefield, Ph.D.**, has served since 1996 as professor and director of the Center for Health Policy and Ethics at George Mason University, working on policy analysis, research, and educational initiatives. Dr. Wakefield held administrative and legislative staff positions at the U.S. Senate before assuming her current position. Dr. Wakefield has served on many public and private health-related advisory boards. From 1997 through 1998, she was on President Clinton's Advisory Commission on Consumer Protection and Quality in the Health Care Industry. In September 1998, Dr. Wakefield was appointed to the Institute of Medicine's Committee on Quality of Health Care in America. She was a Kodak fellow in the Program for Senior Managers in Government at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, and is a fellow in the American Academy of Nursing. Dr. Wakefield received her B.S. in nursing from the

University of Mary at Bismark, N.D., and her M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin.