

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 six new 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 official announcement will be published in the Federal Register.

The newly appointed members are **Pete DeBusk**, chairman, DeRoyal Industries; **Glenn M. Hackbarth, J.D.**, consultant, The Bard Group; **Alan R. Nelson, M.D.**, consultant, American College of Physicians-American Society of Internal Medicine; **Robert D. Reischauer, Ph.D.**, president, The Urban Institute; **David A. Smith**, director, Public Policy Department, American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations; and **Ray E. Stowers, D.O.**, director of rural health, Department of Family Medicine, Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine, and family practitioner, Medford, OK.

Commissioners whose terms will expire in April 2001 are **Spencer Johnson**, president, Michigan Health & Hospital Association; **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.

Commissioners whose terms will expire in April 2002 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**, 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.

Following are brief biographies of the new commission members. For further information, contact MedPAC's Executive Director, Murray N. Ross, Ph.D., at (202) 653-7220.

Pete DeBusk is chairman and founder of DeRoyal Industries, which manufactures medical and surgical supplies. Mr. DeBusk formed his first company in 1970 and DeRoyal Industries in 1976. A member of several community organizations, Mr. DeBusk is also the chairman of the board of trustees of Lincoln Memorial University, on the executive advisory board of the Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority, and on the Dean's Council of the Vanderbilt School of Law. Mr. DeBusk received his B.S. degree from Lincoln Memorial University in Tennessee and attended graduate school at the University of Georgia.

Glenn M. Hackbarth, J.D. is a consultant with The Bard Group. Until July 1998, Mr. Hackbarth was the president and chief executive officer of Harvard Vanguard Medical Associates, a clinician-governed, multispecialty group practice. Mr. Hackbarth held various leadership positions with Harvard Pilgrim Health Care and Harvard Community Health Plan from 1988 to 1997. He served as the deputy administrator of the Health Care Financing Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) from 1986 to 1988 and was also an attorney advisor to HHS' Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation from 1981 to 1984. Mr. Hackbarth received his J.D. and M.A. degrees from Duke University and a B.A. from Pennsylvania State University.

Alan R. Nelson, M.D. is special advisor to the office of the executive vice president of the American College of Physicians-American Society of Internal Medicine (ACP-ASIM). Dr. Nelson was in the private practice of internal medicine and endocrinology in Salt Lake City for 27 years before becoming ASIM's executive vice president in 1992. Following the ACP and ASIM merger in 1998, he became associate executive vice president heading the Washington D.C. office. Dr. Nelson also has served on several boards and commissions including the first national Professional Standards Review Organization Council, the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations, the National Advisory Board on Correctional Health Care, the National Commission on Vaccine Injury Compensation, the Health Care Quality Alliance, and the Institute of Medicine. He was a member of the American Medical Association's board of trustees from 1980 to 1988, and was their president from 1989 to 1990. Dr. Nelson received his M.D. degree from Northwestern University. He completed an internship and residency at Highland-Alameda County Hospital in Oakland, and a fellowship at the Department of Endocrinology and Metabolism at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City.

Robert D. Reischauer, Ph.D. is president of The Urban Institute. Previously, he was a senior fellow with the Brookings Institution and from 1989 to 1995 was the director of the Congressional Budget Office. Dr. Reischauer currently serves on the boards of the Academy of Political Science, the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, and the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget. He also serves on the editorial board of Health Affairs, chairs the National Academy of Social Insurance's project on Restructuring Medicare for the Long-Term, and is a member of the Institute of Medicine. Dr. Reischauer received his A.B. degree from Harvard College and his M.I.A. and Ph.D. from Columbia University.

David A. Smith is director of the Public Policy Department, American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO). Before joining the AFL-CIO, Mr. Smith served as deputy budget director and as commissioner of economic development for the City of New York. Mr. Smith was an aide to Senator Edward M. Kennedy and a senior economist for the Senate's Joint Economic Committee. He taught at the University of Massachusetts at Boston and the New School for Social Research. Mr. Smith is a member of the board of directors of the National Bureau of Economic Research, a senior fellow at the Century Foundation, and a member of the Department of the Treasury's Advisory Committee on International Monetary Fund policy. Mr. Smith received his undergraduate degree from Tufts University and his M. Ed. from Harvard University.

Ray E. Stowers, D.O. is the director of rural health in the Department of Family Medicine at Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine and is in private practice at Family Medicine Clinics, Inc. in Medford, Oklahoma. He is a member of the National Rural Health Association. Dr. Stowers was the president of the American Osteopathic Association and has served that organization in many capacities including several related to physician coding and reimbursement issues. He has been on the Physician Payment Review Commission and was a member of the American Medical Association's Relative Value Update Committee. Dr. Stowers received his B.S. and B.A. degrees from Phillips University in Oklahoma and his D.O. from the University of Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine in Kansas.