



Physicians Committed  
to Quality

# monthly memo mvma ipa

## An important announcement from Richard B. Toll, M.D., MVMA President

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### Annual Meeting

The MVMA Annual Dinner Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 31, 2004. We are putting the details together to send specific information regarding time and place in mid-February. The withhold return and other announcements are made at this time as part of our presentation. We hope you will be able to attend.

### Locum Tenens

MVMA has put a process into place to review the credentials of locum tenens physicians before they begin to see MVP patients. It is our view that our network of physicians would like to be assured that locum tenens physicians who may be seeing their patients either through primary care, or specialist referral, undergo a review process similar to that which you received when you requested participation.

**Specifically, we ask that MVMA be notified as early as possible when a decision to bring on a locum tenens physician has been made.** We work in concert with the MVP Credentialing Department to mail out an application for the physician to complete and send back to us for review. The MVMA Membership Committee has determined that a reasonable time period for a physician to work in a temporary capacity would be a maximum of two months. Therefore, the IPA Medical Director will review the application as a screening procedure and determine if any additional information is needed at that time. This would occur within days of receiving the application. If initially it is known that the locum tenens physician will be in place beyond two months, or this becomes the case during the first two months of working with you, full credentialing will be performed which is a lengthier process. In either case, should there be concerns on our end you will be contacted.

Again, our goal is to ensure that temporary physicians working under your supervision and/or seeing your MVP patients are held to the same standard as our participating physicians.

### Fraud and Abuse Investigations

You are no doubt aware that all health plans must have a separate department and process in place that handles potential cases of fraud and abuse. As part of our role of representing our physicians, MVMA has been very involved in the review of the process MVP follows as it pertains to you. While the process must remain as independent as possible by regulatory mandate, notification to the IPA (MVMA) at various points in the process will occur. This will ensure a reasonable approach in the investigative phase and knowledge of the findings and outcome in all cases. Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns about this increasingly important issue.

