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**ROSE**<sup>®</sup> **REPORT**  
*Reinsurance Outcomes and Service Experts*

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Measuring disease management (DM) outcomes is not a new challenge to healthcare providers and payers. To a large degree, the future of DM hinges on the ability to validate disease management program performance.

We may now have a tool to do just that!

As part of a year-long initiative to explore DM measurement issues facing the industry, the Disease Management Association of America (DMAA) has just released consensus guidelines on recommended practices for measuring outcomes in chronic DM programs.

The association unveiled the DMAA Outcomes Guidelines Report, at its 8th Annual Disease Management Leadership Forum, this week in Denver. According to DMAA Executive Director Tracey Moorhead, “these guidelines represent an unprecedented level of consensus among all stakeholders in chronic disease management and care coordination. Throughout our process of developing the guidelines, we emphasized an inclusive, transparent process, and the final document reflects that.”

DMAA launched a member survey in late January 2006 to determine common industry practices for measuring disease management program outcomes. The results of the survey identified common threads in outcomes measurement and areas of divergence. Through its Outcomes Steering Committee and committee work groups, DMAA worked to build consensus around practices for which less agreement existed.

Committee Co-Chair and Board Member Sue Jennings, PhD, agreed. “Working toward a consistent, reliable approach to measuring outcomes will help ease concerns about disease management's value,” she said. “Our experience has been that disease management provides positive clinical and financial outcomes. Now we have a strong foundation for demonstrating that to others.”

A summary of the recommendations is available on the DMAA website at: [www.dmaa.org](http://www.dmaa.org). The guidelines document provides background on the outcomes project, a "topline" recommendation summary and detailed narrative for each recommendation. It also includes literature references and an appendix of diagnostic and claims codes relevant to assessing clinical outcomes.

DMAA and the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) are also entering into a collaborative agreement to develop performance measures in clinical areas for disease management.

The collaborative agreement with NCQA is the first of several that DMAA hopes to forge in the second phase of its guidelines project, scheduled to begin in early 2007. In this new phase, DMAA will seek to work with quality and accreditation leaders to develop a full set of clinical measures, quality measures, productivity measures, and process and utilization measures. Other priority areas include development of disease-specific population selection criteria, further refinement of the initial guidelines, and collaboration to "test drive" different methodologies.

Watch for further disease management related information in future ROSE<sup>®</sup> Program publications.

#### About DMAA

The Disease Management Association of America (DMAA) a non-profit membership association, represents all stakeholders in disease management and care coordination. DMAA promotes the role of disease management in raising the quality of care, improving health outcomes and reducing health care costs for individuals with chronic conditions. DMAA has more than 200 corporate and individual members representing all aspects of disease management and care coordination—from large health plans, disease management organizations and employers, to individual physicians, researchers and nurses. Learn more by visiting DMAA online at [www.dmaa.org](http://www.dmaa.org).