

MSMA Endorses Suit Against CIGNA

The governing Council of the Missouri State Medical Association on Sunday endorsed the plaintiff's suit in Kaiser v. CIGNA, a case brought by an Illinois physician in an attempt to correct the insurance industry's reimbursement practices.

The MSMA has learned those plaintiffs and their attorneys in Kaiser v. CIGNA are in serious settlement negotiations. Kaiser v. CIGNA is the first nationwide plaintiff class of physicians that has been certified against CIGNA Corporation and its affiliates.

MSMA has also learned that specific relief in the settlement may include extensive disclosure of CIGNA payment practices and fee schedules, substantial monetary damages and future changes in payment practices and policies. MSMA is privy to details of the proposed agreement and after its review, endorses the scope and terms of the agreement.

MSMA is making arrangements to work closely with Class Counsel and looks forward to representing the interests of Missouri physicians. Members can obtain information about this case at www.cigna-classcounsel.com. Lead counsel, Judy L. Cates, of law firm Carr, Korein, Tillery, has an office in St. Louis, Missouri. Please visit www.ckthehealthcarelaw.com.

MSMA is hopeful that the potential settlement comes to fruition as it could represent the first step in correcting the insurance industry's reimbursement practices with respect to physicians not only in Missouri, but also nationwide. Contact Cork Swarens at cswarens@msma.org for more information.

The MSMA Executive Committee has requested you share this news with your colleagues.