



**Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim
Committee**

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60th Montana Legislature

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September 8, 2008

MEMO

To: Montana Community Health Centers, Ambulatory Surgery Centers, Health Care Providers, Insurers, Insurance Regulators, Health Facility Regulators, and Health Care Licensing Boards

From: The Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee

Re: New Consumer Health Care Information Website

As of January 2009, a new website will become available containing information for Montana consumers on health care, including facility pricing for various procedures, health insurance, long-term care options, and related health care information. The website, <http://www.mtinformedpatient.org>, is being sponsored by MHA, an Association of Montana Health Care Providers, but will contain information on more than MHA's members as soon as that information is voluntarily made available.

The Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee voted unanimously at its August 22 meeting to encourage broad participation in this new website. The hope is that, with more information, Montana consumers will make more educated health care decisions and be more aware of health care costs. Participation of regulating bodies will provide contacts for consumer complaints as well as a way for consumers who access the regulators' websites to go directly to a one-stop shop for health care information.

The Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee sees this private sector effort to improve access to health care information as an important step that can be made better by broader participation. MHA announced at the committee's August 22 meeting that MHA would include links or information for entities that are not MHA members. The committee urges your organization or agency to take up that offer and help improve the information available to Montana consumers.

Roberta Yager at MHA is developing the website and getting approvals for links or other information posted at the site. Please contact her directly at roberta@mtha.org to include your links or information on the website. Thank you.

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