



Bringing Uninsured and Underinsured Issues into the Spotlight in the Louisiana State Legislature

Health Screening and Education Event Hosted to Promote Importance of Prevention and Early Detection

Washington, DC (June 1, 2009) – Men's Health Network has partnered with Pfizer Helpful Answers, the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center School of Nursing and the Louisiana Association of Nurse Practitioners to offer a health screening and education event to the Louisiana State Legislature members and staff.

In a time when almost 850,000 Louisianans are uninsured, a staggering 20% of the state's population in 2007, it is more important than ever to make sure that our legislative leaders not only take care of their health, but have the tools and resources to help their constituents do the same.¹ Studies have shown that the uninsured are less likely to regularly visit a physician or have a usual source of care. In fact, according to the 2007 National Health Information Survey data, among adults aged 19 to 64, 48% of those who are uninsured in the U.S. had no usual source of medical care and 46% of uninsured Americans either delayed or did not receive medical care in the past 12 months due to cost.²

"We see this event as an innovative and impactful way to reach legislators and staff with important health information and resources that they can in turn share with their constituents and improve the health of all Louisianans," said Scott Williams, vice president for Men's Health Network.

The June 1 event will offer preventive health screenings that are key in early detection and are imperative in preventing premature death and ensuring a high quality of life. From 11:30 am to 4:30 pm, cholesterol, glucose, blood pressure and body fat screenings will be administered in the Louisiana State Capitol Building in the Rotunda on the Senate side.

One of the event's sponsors is Pfizer Helpful Answers®, a family of patient assistance programs that helps the uninsured and underinsured access Pfizer medicines. Today, it is the largest and most extensive initiative of its kind in the U.S. Pfizer Helpful Answers provides Pfizer medicines for free or at a savings to patients who qualify. The most recent program to be launched under Pfizer Helpful Answers – called Pfizer MAINTAIN™ – helps recently unemployed Americans and their families who have lost their insurance and who are taking Pfizer medicines to continue treatment for free for up to one year. All of Pfizer's patient assistance programs can be reached by calling a single phone number (1-866-706-2400) or by visiting www.PfizerHelpfulAnswers.com.

¹ Urban Institute and Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured estimates based on the Census Bureau's March 2007 and 2008 Current Population Survey, <http://www.statehealthfacts.org/profileind.jsp?ind=125&cat=3&rqn=2>

² Based on 2007 National Health Information Survey data

"We are pleased to support Men's Health Network, and their efforts to keep the needs of Louisiana's uninsured and underinsured front and center," said Gary Pelletier, director of Pfizer Helpful Answers. "Without insurance, millions of Americans face the challenge of staying healthy and preventing disease without access to health care. Our partnership with Men's Health Network, and our presence at today's event, means that we can continue to spread the word about programs that help uninsured patients get access to prescription medicines."

In the face of continued economic struggles and job losses that so many Americans are facing, health screenings and education play an important role in keeping communities healthy. At today's event, Men's Health Network will share valuable information about patient assistance programs with legislators and their staff to help their constituents without prescription drug coverage gain access to the medicines they need.

About Pfizer Helpful Answers®

Pfizer Helpful Answers is a family of patient assistance programs for the uninsured and underinsured who need help getting Pfizer medicines. Today, it is the largest and most extensive initiative in the United States. Pfizer Helpful Answers provides Pfizer medicines for free or at a savings to patients who qualify. Some programs also offer reimbursement support services for people with insurance. Pfizer Helpful Answers is a joint program of Pfizer Inc and the Pfizer Patient Assistance Foundation™.

About Men's Health Network

Men's Health Network (www.menshealthnetwork.org) is a national non-profit organization whose mission is to reach men and their families where they live, work, play, and pray with health prevention messages and tools, screening programs, educational materials, advocacy opportunities, and patient navigation.