

MGMA-ACMPE awards honor exceptional practice management professionals

New Orleans, La. Oct. 25 2010—During the 2010 Medical Group Management Association (MGMA) Annual Conference, MGMA and its certification and standard-setting body, the American College of Medical Practice Executives (ACMPE), presented their annual national awards to medical practice professionals who made outstanding contributions to the profession. The award recipients are:

Harry J. Harwick Lifetime Achievement Award – sponsored by The Harford

Thomas H Stearns, FACMPE, vice president Medical Practices Services, State Volunteer Mutual Insurance Co.

The Harry J. Harwick Lifetime Achievement Award is the highest form of recognition bestowed by the Associations. It goes to an individual who has made nationally recognized contributions to health care administration, delivery and/or education in his/her career, advancing the field of medical practice management.

Stearns is vice president of medical practices services for State Volunteer Mutual Insurance Co., Brentwood, Tenn. He has been an active MGMA member since 1977, joined ACMPE in 1980 and served as ACMPE Board chair. Stearns is engaged in the community — from mentoring and supporting staff members in their quest for additional education and ACMPE certification to supporting and employing disadvantaged individuals in the practices where he has worked. Nominators described Stearns' lengthy list of contributions, which have reached thousands of industry members, as unique and ecumenical.

Throughout a 40-year career, Stearns has led several local, state and national organizations, and he took a leadership role in educating and preparing professionals in 30 states about the benefits and risks associated with electronic health records (EHRs). He developed the Physician's Leadership Institute to help doctors learn the ropes of business management and established practice management boot camps for new and experienced professionals.

[About MGMA](#)

MGMA is the premier membership association for professional administrators and leaders of medical group practices. Since 1926, MGMA has delivered networking, professional education and resources, and political advocacy for medical practice management. Today, MGMA's 21,500 members lead 13,700 organizations nationwide in which some 275,000 physicians provide more than 40 percent of the healthcare services delivered in the United States.

MGMA's mission is to continually improve the performance of medical group practice professionals and the organizations they represent. MGMA promotes the group practice model as the optimal framework for healthcare delivery, assisting group practices in providing efficient, safe, patient-focused and affordable care. MGMA is headquartered in Englewood, Colo., and maintains a government affairs office in Washington, D.C.

[About ACMPE](#)

Founded in 1956, ACMPE is the standard setting and certification organization of MGMA. Through ACMPE, medical group managers can earn the Certified Medical Practice Executive (CMPE) designation and go on to earn the highest distinction of Fellow in the ACMPE (FACMPE). ACMPE members belong to a network of management professionals dedicated to becoming the best in medical practice management by combining experience, learning and professional certification.