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REPORT OF THE 2010 COOPERATIVE PURCHASING COMMITTEE

In these times of on-going budget cutbacks, the BQSI-MB Cooperative Purchasing Committee is proud of its work offering Members the opportunity to jointly purchase electronic products they would not otherwise be able to purchase individually. The Committee has continued to maintain group purchase contracts with CardiosourcePlus, AccessSurgery and AccessEmergency Medicine.

During 2010, 12 institutions renewed their AccessSurgery commitment and 9 sites continued with AccessEmergency Medicine. Members with CardiosourcePlus contact the vendor directly to take advantage of the discount.

As part of ongoing discussions with McGraw-Hill, publisher of the Access sites, Members now have the option of purchasing subscriptions to the other McGraw-Hill websites under the same group purchase umbrella contract. These include: AccessMedicine, JAMAevidence, AccessAnesthesiology, OMMBID and USMLEasy.

After a trial of AccessMedicine, 7 institutions made the commitment to subscribe to this site beginning January 1, 2011. Additionally, some sites also indicated that they were interested in also purchasing AccessAnesthesiology. After additional discussions, McGraw-Hill agreed to prorate the purchase of these products to 2-concurrent users per subscribing institution, thereby adjusting the costs lower for participating sites.

It should be noted that when BQSI-MB first made arrangements with McGraw-Hill for the purchase of AccessSurgery, METRO agreed to serve as a billing/receiving clearinghouse. 2010 was the last year of this agreement and with 2011 each BQSI Member will receive their institution's invoice directly. The Committee thanks the METRO staff for their efforts on our behalf.

The Committee looks forward to reviewing other products and offering trials and group contracts that will assist its Members in meeting the needs of their end-users.

William Self
Chair, Cooperative Purchasing Committee