

MEDIA ADVISORY

NEW COMMONWEALTH FUND SURVEY SPOTLIGHTS STRENGTHS AND GAPS OF HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS IN U.S., CANADA, THE U.K. AND OTHER NATIONS *Global Health Leaders React, Share Health Care Challenges and Priorities*

Thursday, October 28, 2004 ♦ Washington, D.C.

National and international health care leaders will react to findings from a five-nation survey that shows wide variations between countries in access to primary care and likelihood of patients using emergency rooms for non-emergency care; which countries have high rates of lab test errors; and where patients are likely to forgo needed medical services because of costs. The Commonwealth Fund report on health system performance surveyed 1,400 adults from the **United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, New Zealand, and Australia**. The findings, to appear in the October 28 Web exclusive edition of the journal *Health Affairs*, will be released at an international health care briefing in Washington D.C. that will feature leading health care officials from the five nations as well as **Mexico** and **Germany**. After responding to the survey, officials will share health care challenges and priorities facing their countries.

When: **Thursday, October 28, 2004**
8:30 a.m. – Noon

Where: **Kaiser Family Foundation**
Barbara Jordan Conference Center
1330 G Street, NW

Who: **Karen Davis**, Commonwealth Fund
Robin Osborn and Cathy Schoen, Commonwealth Fund
Andrew Bindman, MD, University of California, San Francisco
Carolyn Clancy, MD, Director, U.S. Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality
John S. Hoff, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of the Assistant Secretary, United States
The Honorable John Hutton, Health Minister, England
The Honorable Annette King, Health Minister, New Zealand
Ian Shugart, Assistant Deputy Minister, Health Canada
John Horvath, MD, Chief Medical Officer, Australia
Enrique Ruelas, MD, Under Secretary of Health, Mexico
Franz Knieps, Director-General, Ministry of Health and Social Security, Germany

To reserve a seat at the briefing or for more information, please contact Eliza Brinkmeyer at 301/652-1558 or e-mail her: ebrinkmeyer@burnesscommunications.com. This event will be Webcast live at www.kaisernet.org. **International health officials will be available for interviews while in Washington D.C.**