

Mark Kunkle, Principal

Patriot Growth Insurance Services

Mark is a Principal at Patriot Growth Insurance Services. Mark has been active in the Insurance and Employee Benefits industry since 1988. He earned his B.S. degree from Penn State University in 1985 and began his career developing a broad understanding of healthcare financing, insurance, and provider reimbursement.

Prior to his career in employee benefits, Mark served as Vice President of Marketing for a medical consulting firm specializing in helping physicians and hospitals maximize appropriate reimbursement from insurance carriers. This experience, combined with more than 37 years in the insurance industry, has given him a unique perspective on healthcare financing, plan design, risk management, and the complexities of the Employee Benefits marketplace.

Throughout his career, Mark has been actively involved in industry leadership and advisory organizations. He has served on **Highmark Blue Shield's Elite Advisory Council**, representing one of only 19 agencies statewide, as well as **Benecon's Advisory Council**, **Capital Blue Cross's Advisory Council**, and the **United Benefits Advisors Finance and Self-Funded Committees**.

Mark is also a frequent speaker at both local and national events, where he shares his expertise on **self-funding, healthcare financing, and strategies employers can use to better manage the cost and long-term sustainability of their health plans**.