



Fact Sheet

Physician Group Incentive Program

2012

About Value Partnerships

Value Partnerships is a collection of clinically oriented initiatives among Michigan physicians, hospitals and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan that are improving clinical quality, reducing complications, controlling cost trends, eliminating errors, and improving health outcomes throughout Michigan.

About The Physician Group Incentive Program

The Physician Group Incentive Program (PGIP) began in 2005 to encourage and incentivize physicians to more effectively manage populations of patients and build an infrastructure to more robustly measure and monitor care quality. As of September 2011, 40 physician organizations (POs) across the state of Michigan representing nearly 15,000 primary care physicians and specialists are working together to improve health care for nearly 2 million Michigan Blues members. Additionally, PGIP is cultivating a healthier future for all Michigan residents by catalyzing all payer system development. Patients throughout the state, regardless of payer, benefit from the improved care processes developed through the PGIP provider community.

Emergency Department Utilization Initiative

Overview

The Emergency Department (ED) Utilization Initiative provides incentives to Physician Organizations (POs) in PGIP to reduce ED use rates for Primary Care Sensitive (PCS) conditions. POs analyze datasets and dashboards provided by BCBSM to review individual performance and performance compared to the PGIP overall utilization rates. Incentives are based on improvements in usage rates for PCS conditions and performance.

Objectives

- To increase participation of PGIP POs in the EDU Initiative
- To reduce PCS ED use rates for PGIP-attributed pediatric and adult members
- To provide data for POs to identify conditions related to PCS ED use and frequency utilizations

Incentive Design

The ED Utilization Initiative measures the performance of PGIP POs in PCS ED visit rates using an algorithm created by NYU for their attributed patient population aged 0-64. ED use rates are reported using the most current physician list and assignment of primary care relationships.

Participation Criteria

Any non-oncology PGIP-participating PO is eligible for participation in this Initiative. POs are expected to analyze their data and develop strategies and targeted patient interventions to reduce inappropriate ED use.



Results

- Since the EDU Initiative was launched in 2009 it has grown to include 92% of the PGIP POs, targeting over 5,000 PCPs and nearly 1.5 million members.
- Annual reviews and ongoing communications with PGIP POs show there is still potential to generate cost savings and impact use trends.
- Changes in rates have shown promise in the pediatric population but not among the adult population.
- Value Partnerships will continue to work with the PGIP PO community to share best practices, monitor Initiative progress, and guide POs on helpful analytics.

Questions about the ED Utilization Initiative?

Please contact Kathleen Kobernik, Health Care Analyst, kkobernik@bcbsm.com

For more information on PGIP, or for a copy of the full initiative plan, please contact:

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