



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.

Environmental Cancer Initiative

Overview

The Environmental Cancer Initiative is designed to help PGIP physicians identify patients with exposure to environmental toxins, correctly diagnose related illnesses, and treat or refer for treatment patients with conditions associated with exposure to these toxins. Physicians will learn how to diagnose and treat illnesses caused by arsenic, radon, asbestos, lead, and cholinesterase inhibitors through the completion of online case studies offered by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. The Environmental Cancer Initiative ultimately aims to reduce cancer morbidity and mortality through primary prevention and early detection of diseases related to the aforementioned toxins.

Objectives

- Increase number of PGIP physicians starting and completing all case studies
- Promote a line of patient questioning designed to uncover environmental illnesses
- Increase the awareness of inexpensive, yet sensitive diagnostic testing in developing the differential diagnosis
- Increase the use of 24-hour urine tests to detect arsenic levels
- Increase early diagnosis and treatment of illnesses related to environmental toxin exposure
- Increase blood testing for lead
- Increase measurement of urine metabolites of toxic elements and improve on reporting techniques
- Increase referral of patients difficult to diagnose to one of the two Association for Occupational and Environmental Clinics (AOEC) in Michigan.



Incentive Design

Each participating PO will receive payment for each physician that registers and completes their associated case studies. Payment will vary depending on which combination of modules and which specialties complete the training. Payments will be made by BCBSM to the PO at the regularly scheduled PGIP payment dates. POs will be expected to pass incentive payments on to the physician participants that actively participate in this project.

Participation Criteria

The following specialties will be invited to join this initiative: general practice, family practice, internal medicine, pulmonary disease, geriatric medicine (family practice), pediatricians, oncologists, obstetricians/gynecologists, and neurologists. Participating physicians must be a member of a PGIP PO.

Results

Since its inception in July of 2010, over 406 PGIP physicians have completed all environmental cancer modules.

Questions about the Environmental Cancer Initiative?

Please contact Lauren Henrikson-Warzynski, Health Care Analyst, lhenrikson-warzynski@bcbsm.com.

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

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