



Oakland Physician Network Services
Promoting Affordable Organized Quality Care in Independent Practice

November 2016

Dear OPNS Primary Care Physician:

As you may know, on October 14, 2016, The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services announced final regulations for the Quality Payment Program, part of the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015. CMS stated in those regulations that physician participation in regional Patient Centered Medical Home programs, like the one created by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and the same one you currently belong to, will count towards criteria for the Merit-Based Incentive Payment System.

The implication of the CMS decision means that the value-based transformation and reimbursement programs you currently participate in meet the criteria in the final ruling. CMS now recognizes the validity of the Blue Cross PCMH program. And most importantly, the efforts of participating practices such as yours will be appropriately recognized under new CMS payment reform guidelines. This puts the Michigan primary care community in a prominent position in the nationwide shift towards value-based reimbursement.

To learn more about this exciting news, please visit the Department of Health and Human Services website: <http://www.hhs.gov/about/news/index.html>, then select *Latest News Releases*, and view the release titled, "HHS finalizes streamlined Medicare payment system that rewards clinicians for quality patient care".

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rodger Prong".

Rodger Prong
Executive Director
Oakland Physician Network Services