

Newsletter | Volume 3, Issue 6



Medicare's Pathways to Success - Update

Overview

In December, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced a new direction for ACOs. To ensure the ACO program delivers the most value, Pathways to Success was created and designed to advance five goals: Accountability, Competition, Engagement, Integrity, and Quality.

Most notably this five-year program requires ACOs to take on down-side risk in exchange for greater upside opportunity at a faster rate. A Pathways Workgroup involving representatives from each of our participating Chapters, Milliman (for actuarial analyses) and Navigant (to support program planning) worked for six weeks to determine the best path forward for the Federation ACO. The Affirmant Board approved the Federation ACO Board and Workgroup's recommendation to move forward on the application for Pathways to Success.

HCC Coding

An immediate area of focus for the Federation ACO is appropriate capture of patient risk scores and clerical corrections as necessary for dates of service between August 2018 and December 2019. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) use a Hierarchical Condition Category (HCC) risk adjustment model. The HCC model ranks diagnoses into categories that represent conditions with similar cost patterns. Higher categories represent higher predicted healthcare costs, resulting in higher risk scores. HCC risk scores are used to accurately reflect the health status of our patient populations and are used to adjust shared savings payments to Medicare ACOs and MA plans. Often times, significant opportunities to serve your members and maximize revenue potential in this area are missed due to inaccurate diagnostic coding.

HCC scores are crucial to success in Medicare's new Shared Saving's Program "Pathways to Success". The Federation ACO's five-year benchmark, lasting the duration of the Pathways to Success program starting in January 2020, will be based on care provided during 2018 dates of service (DOS). Medicare allows resubmission of ICD10 codes up to 365 days from date of remittance; meaning, we can impact September through December HCC scores for the 2019 benchmark by resubmitting missed ICD10 codes for 2018 DOS. CMS considers this a correction in clerical error. We can also impact 1st-year performance 2020 HCC scores by resubmitting missed codes for January through July 2019 DOS.

Affirmant Health Partners has partnered with Episource to assist in the collection of medical records and to complete the Medicare Risk Adjustment reviews. The purpose of the chart review is to capture proper ICD-10 coding in order to submit to CMS for Risk Adjustment compliance and to identify any areas for improvement in the identification and documentation of diagnosis codes. The agreement allows Episource to collect requested medical records in Epic for chart review.

August 2019 Highlights

Current Focus

- 1 HCC documentation and clerical corrections
- 2 Pathways documentation
- 3 HAP/PHP/Priority/Affirmant Collaboration
- 4 Quality and Utilization reports

Top Decisions Made

- 1 The Executive Committee approved the recommendation of the Chapter Operations Committee and the Pathways to Success Workgroup to engage with Episource on retrospective chart reviews for HCC documentation
- 2 Approval of the revised accountability and governance models
- 3 Use HCC project as a test case for how to support our efforts, engaging outside help as needed

Clinical Transformation

Dr. Joyce Leon Presents on COPD

At the July Evidence Based Best Practice (EBBP) meeting, the committee kicked off their COPD work. The group's discussion was based upon the presentation Dr. Joyce Leon of Henry Ford Health System regarding work they have done to improve and standardize care for COPD patients. We have sent out requests to each Chapter to gain insight about how other Chapters are managing COPD patients. The video of Dr. Leon's EBBP presentation will be available for members to view by request. Please use the link below to email info@affirmant.com and request the link to the video.

[Dr. Joyce Leon - COPD Presentation](#)

Member News

Founding Board Members Retire from Henry Ford Allegiance Health



Two of Affirmant's founding Board members are retiring from their roles at Henry Ford Allegiance Health and Affirmant Health Partners. Georgia Fojtasek, RN, served as President and CEO of Henry Ford Allegiance Health and Ray King, MD, served as President & CEO of Jackson Health Network. Thank you both for your tremendous contributions within your health systems, your local clinically integrated network and Affirmant. We wish you all the best in your retirement.

Henry Ford Allegiance Health Appoints New President and CEO, Paula Autry, FACHE



On July 15, Henry Ford Allegiance Health appointed Paula Autry, FACHE, as their new president and CEO. Autry will also serve as Senior Vice President to Henry Ford Health System's Central Market. Please join us in welcoming Paula Autry to Henry Ford Allegiance Health!

Henry Ford Health System Names New President and CEO of Henry Ford Allegiance Health

Leadership Retreat - 2020

Mark your calendars for May 21, 2020!

Affirmant's next Leadership Retreat will be held at the East Lansing Marriott Hotel, the same venue we chose last year.

We are very excited for this event and to share more with you as we get closer to the big day!



S a v e t h e D a t e

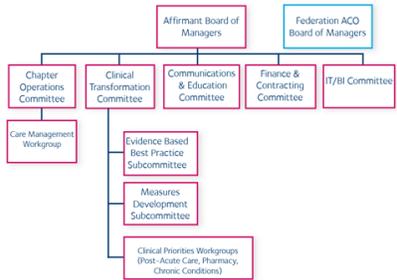
LEADERSHIP | 20 / 20
RETREAT | VISION

Vision without action is merely a dream.
Action without **vision** just passes the time.
Vision with action can change the world.
-Joel A. Barker

Affirmant

East Lansing Marriott Hotel
May 21, 2020

Committee Structure and Updates



Our Organization is physician-led and professionally managed. The Board of Managers consists of two representatives from each member system and a few advisors.

[Read More: Committee Structure and Updates](#)

The 2018 Value Report is available now!

Affirmant Health Partners 2018 Value Report



Available to view online at issuu.com and to order
Request a copy today!

The 2018 Value Report is now available to all members for viewing electronically through issuu.com as well as in hard copy form. The report will also be accessible soon on the ["About Us" page at affirmant.com](http://affirmant.com). We would like to thank everyone who had a hand in updating information for this year's report and congratulate all of you for a very successful 2018!

Please write to us at info@affirmant.com to request a copy (or multiple copies) today.

[Click here to view Affirmant's 2018 Value Report on issuu.com](#)

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Affirmant is on [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) to connect with current and potential stakeholders. This is also a great way for us to highlight the important work our member systems are doing as well. If you are active on any of these platforms, please find us and comment or even tweet at us @Affirmant.



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