

Good Afternoon,

My Name is Pamela Price and I am the Senior Government Relations Representative for Highmark Blue Cross/Blue Shield Delaware. Thank you Sen. Townsend and Rep. Bentz for this opportunity to comment on the Primary Care Collaborative report to the legislature.

Highmark Delaware believes that this collaborative can be an effective resource in transforming the way in which care is delivered, reimbursed, and evaluated. Highmark Delaware agrees that promoting and expanding primary care services is a critical success factor to lower health care costs. Highmark Delaware is committed to placing the primary care physician at the center of managing the patients' health.

Highmark Delaware fully supports the recommendation that any solution should encourage greater participation in value-based models. Highmark Delaware has been highly successful in developing, with willing and engaged provider partners, value based reimbursement models and is a leader in this space. Our True Performance program promotes effective and efficient use of primary care services, provides human resources and technical support to the practices and provides a real and sustainable financial reward for demonstrating measurable outcomes that provide the patient with appropriate quality, cost management and experience.

Rate setting promotes and perpetuates a fee for service reimbursement methodology. The market should move towards, adopt or offer value based reimbursement methods which will encourage the health care market to more appropriately balance spending allocations, but most importantly, lower the cost of healthcare while providing better outcomes.

Increasing payments without tying those increases to quality outcomes and total cost of care improvements/reductions will only serve to increase care costs; while patients will continue to struggle with access and availability to good quality and appropriate care. Any mandate of additional payments or specific rates must be offset by savings through more efficient, effective and quality driven care.

Thank you