

IN FOCUS

Important updates for the provider community



2024 New Year's Message

2023 brought many benefits to our participating physicians and their practices. We negotiated an agreement between PPLLC and Yankee Alliance, a group purchasing organization that brings discounted pricing for medical and office supplies to our practices. As participants in BILHPN workgroups, we brought the physician perspective to discussions that will shape the future structure and programs of the population health enterprise across the system. We continue to partner with our hospital colleagues in shared risk arrangements through BILHPN, balancing the appropriate risk to the physician enterprise and auditing settlements to ensure that dollars track to the physicians correctly. And we ended the year with notification from the Health Policy Commission that the affiliation between PPLLC and Mount Auburn Cambridge IPA (MACIPA) was approved. We are thrilled to be welcoming our colleagues from MACIPA into the organization as of January 1, 2024.

Our organization continues to focus on advocating externally for our physician practices in areas such as payor prior authorization rules and CMS physician fee schedule payment changes, and we will continue this advocacy in 2024. We are also working to make the health plan enrollment and recredentialing processes easier on you and your staff. We will build on the steady improvement we made in our performance in quality metrics in 2024, with a greater emphasis on measures for diabetic and hypertensive patients, as well as continued focus on cancer screenings. We are also working to understand and eliminate as much as possible any differences in quality metric scores due to health equity issues. Renewals for many contracts were finalized last year, including BCBS and United Healthcare, and work will begin soon on the Point32 renewal contract for 2025.

Many challenges continue for physicians to remain successful and innovative in the current healthcare environment. Having a strong physician organization will help us to continue to succeed as the healthcare landscape shifts and evolves. Throughout

this challenging period, the board and I are grateful for your fortitude and dedication, as you continue to provide extraordinary care to your patients. As always, if there are issues or concerns you have please feel free to reach out to us to discuss.

With gratitude, optimism, and shared hope for a bright 2024,



Alexa B. Kimball, MD, MPH
President, PPLLC



Deb Schoenthaler,
Executive Director, PPLLC



Focus for 2024

The focus of our population health efforts in 2024 remain on the areas that will have the biggest clinical and financial impacts: clinical documentation initiatives, readmissions, care retention, and quality improvement. In the past, physicians were measured for financial performance as Risk Units, which were groupings based on employment and geographic location. Starting in 2024, physicians will be grouped together with their local hospital, with joint meetings focusing on issues particular to that hospital and physician community. Quality metric results will be measured at the PCP practice level.

Our new Associate Executive Director, Todd Lowthers, will be liaison to our colleagues at Beth Israel Lahey Health Performance Network (BILHPN) in executing on plans to continuously improve our performance and achieve improved financial results. Todd will also be working with BILHPN and our practices to make the enrollment and privileging process more effective and efficient.

Please join us in welcoming Todd to the PPLLC organization. He can be reached at tlowther@bidmc.harvard.edu or via phone at (617) 632-9762.

Please reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns. I can be reached via email at

PLLCAdministration@bidmc.harvard.edu or leave me a message at (617) 632-9728, and I will get back to you.

Deb Schoenthaler, Executive Director



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