

IN FOCUS

Important updates for the provider community

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2026 New Year's Message

Dear Colleagues,

As we begin 2026, we are reflecting on the significant moments and milestones that marked our past year together, and looking ahead to what awaits us in the new year.

This past year we held our first annual Physician Colleague award ceremony, a chance to recognize and celebrate colleagues, nominated by their peers, who exemplify the attributes of collaboration, connectedness and outstanding patient care. Click [this link](#) to see photos from the awards event we held in June.

We focused our efforts on increasing care retention, meaning that our patients are receiving care within the BILHPN network. We carried out this work in a number of ways:

- Our InFocus newsletters highlighted our provider network for targeted specialties, and included [clinical education updates](#) from various providers in our organization. This year we will build off of that format by including an interactive map for each specialty we highlight, allowing an easier way to locate specialty care services where your patients live.
- We welcomed a number of new specialty care practices in geographies where our service reach is more limited. We highlighted these new practices in our quarterly InFocus newsletters.
- We ran a pilot program to visit a number of high-volume specialty care practices to re-orient them to Physician Performance services, and received helpful feedback on changes to implement that will help their practices run more efficiently.

Another high priority area of focus was around the OneBILH Epic Waves 2 and 3 of Epic implementation, where we assisted in troubleshooting issue resolution, and laid the groundwork for the upcoming Epic implementation in community practices. We will continue to work with BILH colleagues to ready for the voluntary implementation of the OneBILH Epic Community

Connect ambulatory EHR, which will begin in mid-2026. The first step of this work will be a community town hall in January. Click [here](#) to view the meeting invite.

At a regulatory level, we provided written testimony and presentations to our state and federal organizations on issues of ever-increasing importance to physicians around prior authorization rules, provider directories, and CMS fee schedule updates. At times we may reach out to our provider community to elicit your personal patient care stories related to these issues, as your voices can have a big impact on how regulations are written.

In 2026, we anticipate significant efforts focused on BCBS contract negotiations, addressing the implications of the ACA subsidy expirations, and managing the downstream impacts of recent Executive Orders—all of which will demand considerable time and resources. We are honored and excited to be your colleague and partner in these efforts. On behalf of the Physician Performance board of managers, and both of us, thank you for your heartfelt dedication to providing exceptional patient care throughout the past year. We wish you, and your families, a happy and healthy 2026.

With respect and gratitude,

Alexa B. Kimball, MD, MPH
President



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President

Deb Schoenthaler, MS
Executive Director



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Executive Director

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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