Facts for providers

What is a patient-centered medical home?
A care team led by a primary care physician who:
• Focuses on the health needs of each patient
• Coordinates patient care across all settings

How does the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan PCMH program work?
Through financial support from Blue Cross’ Physician Group Incentive Program, the PCMH program has two phases:
• Phase I: Apply PCMH capabilities and tools to transform physician practices
• Phase II: Designate PCMH practices and maintain designation status

Examples of PCMH capabilities include:
• Developing and strengthening the patient-provider partnership
• Establishing and maintaining a patient registry
• Creating reports to analyze practice performance
• Providing self-management education and support to chronic condition patients
• 24-hour access to a clinical decision-maker
• Working with patients to set personal health goals
• Administering appropriate tests and communicating results in a timely manner
• Coordinating care across all facilities, including hospitals and skilled nursing facilities
• Actively screening, counseling and educating on preventive care
• Coordinating referrals and lab or test results with specialists
• Providing connections to community services and resources
• Making available secure, online electronic communication tools
• Appointment tracking and reminders

When can a practice gain designation status?
We make our PCMH designations every July. Practices are nominated by their physician organizations.

PCMH statistics
• Over 4,600 primary care physicians in over 1,700 practices participate in the program, which has more than quadrupled in size since 2009.
• More than 1.3 million Blue Cross members have access to one of our PCMH-designated practices.
Program results to date
When Blue Cross compares PCMH practices with non-designated practices, we see that PCMH physicians are successfully managing their patients’ care. They’re keeping their patients healthy and preventing complications that require treatment with expensive medical services.

Program savings to date
Our PCMH program saved an estimated $626 million from July 2008 through June 2017. Improved quality of care and preventive care helped patients avoid emergency room visits and hospital stays.

Nationally published results for Blue Cross’ PCMH program
Our PCMH program has been highlighted in national peer-reviewed literature, including:

- **Medical Care Research and Review**, April 2015, presented evidence suggesting that both the level and amount of change in PCMH practices are positively associated with quality of care and use of preventive services. Also, lower overall medical and surgical costs are associated with higher levels of PCMH implementation.

- **JAMA Internal Medicine**, February 2015, examined breast, cervical and colorectal cancer screening rates for practices’ with Blue Cross patients. Evidence suggested that implementation of the PCMH model was associated with higher breast, cervical and colorectal cancer screening rates across most socioeconomic levels.

- **Health Services Research**, July 2013, showed a link between the level of PCMH transformation in a practice and cost savings. A practice that fully implemented the PCMH program would have, on average, $26.37 lower per-member, per-month costs than a practice that implemented no PCMH capabilities.

For more information, visit valuepartnerships.com.