Fact Sheet
Physician Group Incentive Program
2011

About Value Partnerships

Value Partnerships is a collection of clinically oriented initiatives among Michigan physicians, hospitals and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan that are improving clinical quality, reducing complications, controlling cost trends, eliminating errors, and improving health outcomes throughout Michigan.

About The Physician Group Incentive Program

The Physician Group Incentive Program (PGIP) began in 2005 to encourage and incentivize physicians to more effectively manage populations of patients and build an infrastructure to more robustly measure and monitor care quality. As of August 2010, 37 physician organizations (POs) and over 8,600 physicians are working together to improve health care for more than 1.8 million Michigan Blues members.

Michigan Oncology Clinical Treatment Pathways Program

Overview

In an effort to improve quality and decrease variation in oncology clinical practice among Michigan physician practices, BCBSM introduced the Michigan Oncology Clinical Treatment Pathways Program in January 2010. The Pathways Program provides recommended treatment pathways for newly diagnosed patients with breast, colon, lung, lymphoma, myeloma, ovarian, prostate, and renal cancers who are receiving chemotherapy for the first time or receiving a new line of chemotherapy due to disease progression or metastases.

Objectives

- Establish evidence-based oncology treatment pathways for a variety of cancers – initially lung, breast, and colon cancer – and supportive care in the 2010 Pathways Program, expanding to lymphoma, myeloma, chronic lymphocytic leukemia, ovarian, prostate, and renal cancers in the 2011 Pathways Program
- Define optimal quality care and treatment that have the least toxicity while being the most cost effective for the patient, provider, and payer – without compromising integrity or delivery of treatment
- Decrease variability in treatment between providers through utilization of a consistent treatment regimen based upon a balance between outcomes, toxicity, and cost
- Increase the use of generic drugs for both chemotherapy and supportive care
- Improve quality of health care delivery
- Decrease the overall costs of cancer care for BCBSM members that fall within the categories included in the Pathways Program

Incentive Design

Pathways Program participating oncologists receive uplifts to the fee schedule for evaluation and management (E&M) services, incentives for installing the required data collection tool (eobONE), and an enhanced generic fee schedule for select pharmaceuticals. Participants are also eligible for a gain share if net cost savings in overall oncology drug spend are realized.
Participation Criteria
This Professional Collaborative Quality Initiative (CQI) is different from other PGIP initiatives as participation is determined at the individual physician level. Further, all physicians within a specific practice are required to participate in the Program. The Pathways Program is a voluntary program for Michigan oncologists participating in PGIP. Oncologists need not be a member of the Michigan Society of Hematology Oncology (MSHO), Oncology Physician Resource (OPR), or Physician Resource Management (PRM) to participate in this program.

PRM has developed the following expectations for those participating in the Pathways Program. Prior to participation in the Pathways Program, interested oncologists are required to complete the following:
- Enrollment documents, including:
  - Pathways Program Participation Agreement
  - Business Associate Agreement
  - eobONE demonstration and installation (and paperwork associated with software licensing fees, contract, and business associate agreement)
- Practice Profile that includes the following:
  - Physician names
  - Rendering numbers
  - Tax ID
  - Contact Information (including address and e-mail)

Results
Since the launch of the Michigan Oncology Clinical Treatment Pathways Program, interest among oncologists to participate in the Pathways Program has continued to rise. Of the 259 PGIP oncologists, over 73% elected to participate in the Pathways Program.

2010 Program-wide compliance goals with chemotherapy treatment pathways is based on meeting the following:
- 70% of eligible patients are treated according to the chemotherapy treatment pathways
- 80% of eligible patients are treated according to the supportive care pathways for neutropenia, anemia, and nausea/vomiting

As of the second quarter 2010, overall compliance with treatment pathway thresholds were met by all participating practices. During the 2010 program year, the Clinical Pathways Steering Committee identified several new pathways for 2011 including lymphoma, myeloma, chronic lymphocytic leukemia, ovarian, prostate, and renal cancers.

Questions about the Michigan Oncology Clinical Treatment Pathways Program?
Please contact Kimberly Harrison,
Senior Health Care Analyst,
kharrison@bcbsm.com

For more information on PGIP, or for a copy of the full initiative plan, please contact:
providerpartnerships@bcbsm.com