



# Statement of Support

## DHHS Four Cornerstones of Value-driven Health Care

### 1. Support Health Information Technology

In order to enable the availability and secure exchange of healthcare information to improve patient care, we will support an interoperable health information system that allows for the exchange of health information across networks, settings, and political boundaries. When those with which we contract implement, acquire, or upgrade health information technology systems and products, we will request that they use systems and products that meet interoperability standards recognized by the Secretary of Health and Human Services. In maintaining or exchanging information, patient privacy will be appropriately protected, as required by law.

#### RHODE ISLAND LEADERSHIP

- E-prescribing – We are the lead state in the country in advancing electronic prescribing.
- Electronic Health Records – We have an innovative public/private partnership through the RI Quality Institute that seeks to increase the number of physician offices using Electronic Health Records.
- Health Information Exchange – RI's Department of Health received a federal contract to build the initial health information exchange through which clinical information can be shared in a secure and confidential manner. The Rhode Island legislature has committed public monies to match private funds to expand this exchange, and link it with private Electronic Health Records and various state agencies and programs.
- The Chief Information Officer for the state has ensured that strategic plans for agencies that house health information utilize national information technology standards for health data storage and exchange.

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*America's healthcare system has an unprecedented opportunity to lay new foundations for better patient care, higher quality service, and increased value.*

*Rhode Island has a shared vision of a health care system that promotes wellness as well as high quality medical care, that engages all Rhode Islanders and that puts patients not providers at the center of the system.*

*To attain this vision, Governor Carcieri has directed his administration to focus on five initiatives for health care transformation: Personal wellness; a balanced medical delivery system that emphasizes prevention and primary care; anywhere any time health care information; affordable health insurance - especially for small businesses; and smart state purchasing to support these initiatives.*

*But meeting this vision will require the commitment of the private and public sectors at the local and national levels. Therefore we commit to support the following Federal initiatives championed by the Department of Health and Human Services and will encourage the health insurance plans, third party administrators, providers, and others with which we contract to take consistent actions to achieve these goals.*

## RHODE ISLAND LEADERSHIP *Continued from page 1*

- Consumers' Role – we are committed to Consumers having direct access to this clinical information and are developing a community consensus on how to do this in a confidential and secure manner.

### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- In contracts and advocacy expect health plans and providers to support these efforts.
- Educate employees on the value of electronic health records and how the exchange of clinical information between medical providers will improve the quality and safety of care.
- Support the Rhode Island Quality Institute and other public and private efforts to increase the adoption of Electronic Health Records and the exchange of this clinical information.

## 2. Provide Quality Information

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To support knowledge and comparison of the quality of care delivered by healthcare providers, we will implement, or request that those with which we contract implement, programs to measure healthcare provider quality and make this information available to enrollees in the health plans we sponsor. At the present time, the measures most fully developed are those endorsed by the National Quality Forum (NQF) and adopted by AQA (a multi-stakeholder group focused on physician quality measures) or the Hospital Quality Alliance (HQA). We anticipate that quality measurement and reporting programs will be based on these measures. However, if we wish to measure quality of care in other areas, we will use measures endorsed by the NQF or, alternatively, approved by other national broad-based organizations, and we will support national consensus efforts to increase the availability of consistent quality measures in these areas.

## RHODE ISLAND LEADERSHIP

- The state has established the public reporting of hospital and nursing home quality and consumer satisfaction measures using national standards. Last year, the Rhode Island Legislature directed the Department of Health to extend this program to physician offices.

### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Support state efforts to measure and publicly report quality performance of providers.
- In contracts and discussions expect health plans to participate in and use these public efforts.
- Educate your employees that variations in provider quality exist and there are public resources to help them make good choices.

## 3. Provide Pricing Information

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To support knowledge and comparison of the cost or price of care, we will implement, or request that those with which we contract implement, programs to make available to enrollees in the health plans we sponsor the overall cost or price of their care. As consensus develops on uniform approaches for measuring and reporting cost or price information for the benefit of consumers, we will use these approaches and request that those with which we contract do the same. We will promote the availability of cost or price information together with quality

information, whenever possible, to help our employees focus on value. We also will request that those with which we contract participate in broad-based national public-private collaborative efforts to develop appropriate strategies to measure the overall cost of services for common episodes of care and the treatment of common chronic diseases, while avoiding undue administrative burden on healthcare providers.

#### RHODE ISLAND LEADERSHIP

- Governor Carcieri proposed and the Rhode Island Legislature passed a pricing transparency act in the last legislative session. It established a joint provider/health insurance group to figure out how to disclose to consumers pricing information for services. Report due March 15.

#### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- If you have high deductible health plans, insist that health plans make pricing information available to your employees.
- Ask your doctors and hospitals how much things cost – change the culture.

## 4. Promote Quality & Efficiency of Care

We will work to develop approaches that encourage and facilitate high-quality and cost-effective health care, and contract with entities that help us to achieve these goals. Such approaches may include, for example, implementation of pay-for-performance methods of reimbursement for providers, the offering of consumer-directed health plan products, such as account-based plans for enrollees in employer-sponsored health benefit plans, or the use of high performance provider networks.

#### RHODE ISLAND LEADERSHIP

- The State of Rhode Island is innovating in three important areas:
  - Benefit Design: The new Wellness Health Benefit Plan developed by the Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner uses benefit design to encourage utilization of high quality, efficient providers and to promote wellness and prevention.
  - Provider Payment: The state has received national grants to work with health plans to change the way primary care providers get paid for taking care of the most expensive chronic conditions (like asthma and diabetes).
  - Health Information Technology: Rhode Island's efforts to increase the use of electronic health records, exchange this clinical information between providers and give consumers access to this information will transform the quality and efficiency of our medical care system.
- As a purchaser, the State will implement the above principles of contracting for high-quality, cost-effective care through its purchase of health care for state employees and their families, retired employees, and Medicaid.

#### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Support smart benefit design like our Wellness Health Benefit Plan
- Support payment methods to health care providers that are consistent with developing a medical delivery system that emphasizes prevention, primary care, and high-performance medical services.

# Sign On

We recognize that this Federal initiative is part of an ongoing effort to share quality and cost or price information. Over time, this information can be used to improve patient care and enhance the effectiveness of our healthcare system by increasing the availability of uniform and comparable information with which all stakeholders can make informed decisions. These steps are the foundation for a value-driven healthcare system that delivers continued progress in medical care and good health for our employees and for all Americans.

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

*[CEO or CEO's Designee] For purposes of additional communication and/or information, please provide the name of an appropriate contact:*

Follow-Up Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Declaring your Statement of Support:**

Signed statements may be returned via mail or fax to:

**Rhode Island Department of Health**

**Attention: Nina Lennon, Rm 302**

**Three Capitol Hill**

**Providence, RI 02908**

**Fax: 401/222-1442**

*Copies will be forwarded to:*

*The Department of Health and Human Services*

*Value-driven Health Care*

*200 Independence Avenue, SW: Room 738G*

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