



Western Physicians' Alliance



September 2011

Delivering Value-Added Benefits

Pay for Performance

This year Saint Mary's Health Plans has begun the development of a Health Services Task Force to solicit input for the creation of a Physician Dashboard and a Pay for Performance (P4P) program. The program is comprised of PCPs from IM, FP and Peds and it reports to the Saint Mary's Health Plans Medical Advisory Committee.

The P4P program will be developed this year for a 2012 implementation and program goals will include:

- Improving quality
- Reducing overall cost
- Providing incentives to physicians for cost-effective care

Physician Dashboards and P4P Programs can be successful tools that reward physicians for HEDIS improvements in preventive care, prescribing patterns, access to the appropriate care, and a reduction in redundancy of testing.

WPA Pilot Portal

The WPA pilot program was started in late 2010. Its mission was to explore the creation of a WPA Community Portal, which could share patient data among physicians. WPA selected InTuun Systems located in Reno, NV to design the platform.

The goal was to accomplish several objectives:

1. Start the process of WPA becoming a data driven network.
2. Improve physician access to electronic clinical results.
3. Improve physician office efficiency in receiving and completing referrals.
4. Demonstrate the ability to collect and report on clinical indicators.

Early indications of the pilot program were that it was able to aggregate significant quantities of valuable clinical data that can begin to form the basis of a central depository and reporting tool. InTuun Systems collected and reported to WPA preliminary data findings on two key Diabetes related data measures, HbA1c and LDL cholesterol from participants of the project.

It has also been determined that by collaborating on patient care with referrals and having access to each other's clinical information through the InTuun System showed great promise. Stay tuned for further developments.



Important Changes for Saint Mary's Health Plans Members and Providers - Effective September 1

Saint Mary's Health Plans is making significant improvements to our computer system that will benefit our members and clinical services providers.

**Please watch your U.S. mail for a packet that contains
a provider office toolkit with the following:**

- A cover letter explaining these important changes (including information about new member ID cards featuring new member ID and group numbers);
- A laminated "reminder" flier about these changes that can be posted in your office; and
- A set of Frequently Asked Questions that could be helpful should you receive inquiries.

If you have not received a packet by Friday, 8/19/11, please contact your designated Provider Relations coordinator or call our main provider line at 775.770.6278.

Thank you in advance for your support as we implement these enhancements to better serve our members and providers.

Provider Relations Department
Saint Mary's Health Plans

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