



Aug. 6, 2014

IowaHealth+ Signs ACO Agreement with Iowa Medicaid Program Encourages Healthy Behaviors for Iowans

(Des Moines, Iowa) – IowaHealth+ has been recognized by Iowa Medicaid as an Accountable Care Organization (ACOs) to encourage healthy behaviors and improve health outcomes for thousands of Iowans on the Iowa Health and Wellness Plan.

ACOs are groups of doctors, hospitals, and other health care providers, who have agreed to provide integrated care to patients, with the goal of achieving better health results for Iowans, as well as fostering accountability in their care. Under these agreements, health care providers assume financial risk to deliver high-quality outcomes of a defined patient population - in this case, Iowa Wellness Plan members.

“This is a great step in helping Iowans complete healthy behaviors,” said DHS Director Charles M. Palmer. “The ACO provides access to coordinated care for Wellness Plan members and also works to ensure patients get the right care at the right time, all while working toward the goal of spending health care dollars wisely and improving outcomes.”

With the IowaHealth+ agreement effective Aug. 1, the state now has four large ACOs working to improve the health of Iowans.

ACOs are incentivized by quality bonuses which align with the Healthy Behaviors program. Under that program, Iowa Health and Wellness Plan members’ monthly contributions are waived if they complete a risk assessment and annual physical. If the activities are completed in 2014, the monthly contributions would be waived in 2015.

“We are very excited about this announcement. The IowaHealth+ ACO allows our health centers to provide care within an evolving Medicaid system and remain leaders in offering individualized, quality health care to thousands of Medicaid patients,” said IowaHealth+ CEO Ted Boesen. “We are pleased Iowa Medicaid has recognized the value of this unique ACO, which allows us to remain focused on our collective mission to provide accessible, affordable health care for all.”

To date, more than 110,000 individuals have signed up for the Iowa Health and Wellness Plan. Of those enrolled in the Iowa Wellness Plan, more than 32,000 have a primary care provider affiliated with the four ACOs.

The ACOs include:

- **IowaHealth+**: comprised of All Care Health Center, Community Health Centers of Southeastern Iowa, Community Health Centers of Southern Iowa, Crescent Community Health Center, People’s Community Health Center, Greater Siouxland Community Health Center, River Hills Community Health Center and Siouxland Community Health Center.

- **Broadlawns Medical Center** - a community hospital serving Polk County and Central Iowa.
- **University of Iowa Health Alliance LLC** - comprised of health systems, county hospitals, RHCs, and Federally Qualified Health Centers across Iowa and include systems like, Genesis Health System, Mercy Health Network, and the University of Iowa Health System.
- **UnityPoint Health Partners** - comprised of UnityPoint Clinic, Trimark Physicians Group (Fort Dodge), Central Iowa Hospital Corporation (Blank Children's) and St. Luke's Health Resources (Sioux City).

For more information

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