



Affirmant

Health Partners™

Newsletter

September 2017

A HEALTHY MICHIGAN AT AN AFFORDABLE COST

Message from the CEO

Health care reform has continued to headline every media outlet, but this month was especially interesting. The “repeal and replace” health plan of Senators Graham and Cassidy was not acted upon; reports suggest a bipartisan agreement is near on a bill to stabilize Affordable Care Act markets; and CMS canceled and scaled back plans for bundled payments. It’s enough to make your head spin! How do we make sense of what is happening? What is likely to happen in health care over the next few years? What do we do about it? A window was opened into Trump Administration priorities with the September 20 release of a Request For Information from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Innovation Center. CMS is seeking feedback on a “new direction” in health care reforms, including:

- Increased participation in Advanced Alternative Payment Models (APMs) involving significant downside financial risk-sharing by providers
- Medicare Advantage (MA) innovation models, involving capitated Medicare premium payments to health plans
- Physician specialty models, and
- Consumer-directed care and market-based innovation models

While we cannot know what specifically will come from these innovations, I think we can be confident that those physicians who have real-time, actionable *data analytics* at the point of care; fast and flexible *clinical*

transformation capabilities; and a track record of shared rewards through *health plan partnerships* will be well positioned to succeed. You may recognize these elements of success as the three sides of our “Fire Triangle.”

I am proud of what we have been able to accomplish so far on this journey to creating a healthy Michigan at an affordable cost. We are fanning the flame of the Fire Triangle. Here are a few highlights: In Data Analytics, we have just signed an agreement with Epic for the use of their Population Health software, Constellation. The capabilities we will have through Constellation will have immediate benefits for both independent and employed physicians at the point of care.

From a Clinical Transformation perspective, our Post-Acute Care Work Group has put together an evidence-based, best practice plan tailored to the unique needs of each of our Chapters. Kira Carter-Robertson, Vice President of Acute Care Services at Sparrow and Jenny Houttekier, Director of Clinical Integration from Affirmant presented the strategy to the Board of Managers last week and won their unanimous endorsement. Board Members also discussed the importance of Member health system and Chapter support of the financial, team member and training resources required to deliver better quality and efficiency of post-acute care.

Our Health Plan Partnerships are the last piece of the puzzle. We continue to generate additional income for our physicians participating in the CMS Comprehensive Primary Care Plus (CPC+) program and are expanding participation in the Federation ACO. By year-end, we anticipate having Letters of Agreement with two health plans and proposals received and analyzed for a common medical Third Party Administrator for employee health plans sponsored by Bronson, Covenant, MidMichigan and Sparrow.

As we have said from the beginning of our journey, the rising cost of health care is not sustainable for our patients, our communities, or our nation. Although we are far from hearing the end of what Washington will decide is the future of the ACA and Medicare, Affirmant is making progress in positioning you for success regardless of specific policy changes we may encounter.

Thank you for learning and leading in this important work and for making a vital contribution to achieving a healthy Michigan at an affordable cost.

Best regards,

Dr. Bill Mayer

Top 5 things to find on affirmant.com

1

Navigation bar at the top to quickly jump to where you want to go



2

Statistics about the current health care landscape in the US and why we came together



3

Our vision, mission, values & goals ...all in one place!



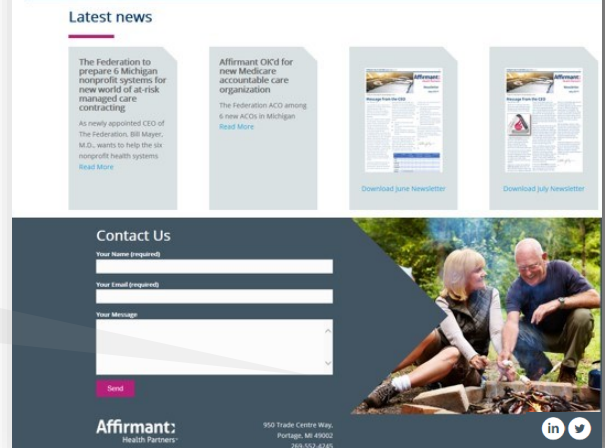
4

Not only are you able to connect to our member health systems, by clicking on the dots on the map, you can also access our local clinically integrated networks



5

An easy way to contact Affirmant Health Partners directly or communicate with us on LinkedIn or Twitter



COMET Launch—October 9, 2017

On Monday, October 9, we will launch the first phase of COMET to the people that work most intimately with Affirmant. Committee members, retreat attendees and others who are actively engaged with Affirmant will receive an email from hello@cometlearn.com with instructions for activating your account and checking out the site.

Through this site, you will have access to 18 CME accredited learning activities and important information about Affirmant, our clinical priorities and best practices.

Our ask of you?
Let us know what you think!



COMET Questions? Contact the help desk.
24 hours a day, 7 day a week, 365 days a year
1-855-800-COMET or help@cometlearn.com
(2663)

December Town Hall : Save the date



Please save the date for our third Affirmant Town Hall, hosted by Henry Ford Allegiance Health, on December 11, from 1:00 - 2:00 pm. Dr. Bill Mayer, President and CEO of Affirmant, will give an overview of our progress, outline our vision for the future and take your questions and comments. The town hall series will be hosted quarterly at different Affirmant member sites. We are thrilled to offer this unique opportunity and hope you will save the date and join us!



**HENRY FORD
ALLEGIANCE HEALTH**

Affirmant and Epic in the News

Word of Affirmant's collaboration with Epic's Constellation platform is spreading. [Crain's Detroit](#), [EHR Intelligence](#) and [Becker's Healthcare](#) have covered the story this week and we are pleased with the interest from the different industries (business, IT and health care).

MI Health Systems Implement Epic Healthy Planet Constellation

Six leading Michigan health systems target improved care cost and quality with Epic implementation.



Source: Thinkstock

By Kate Monica

September 25, 2017 - Affirmant Health population health management and analytics platform designed for clinically integrated networks.

The coalition of health systems is the platform.

The population health management platform population health management software practices. Constellation is designed to collect timely patient data at the point-of-care.

Dig Deeper

- Epic Share Everywhere Enables Worldwide
- Cerner Population Health Management
- HHS Fail to Meet Needs of Population Health

September 25, 2017 10:02 p.m. UPDATED 3 DAYS AGO

Affirmant to use Epic program to help coordinate patient care

By JAY GREENE



Health Care Information technology

- Affirmant is one of Michigan's largest clinically integrated networks
- Epic software will allow doctors and hospitals to better share patient information
- Affirmant providers will be able to share data with doctors and hospitals on any platform

Affirmant Health Partners, one of Michigan's largest clinically integrated state networks with 21 hospitals and more than 6,000 physicians, has purchased a health information software program from Epic Corp. that is expected to help doctors and hospitals that are not on an Epic electronic health information system to share information.

Kalamazoo-based Affirmant includes six health care systems and their affiliated physicians: Bronson Healthcare, Kalamazoo: Covenant HealthCare, Saginaw: Henry Ford Health System, health

Affirmant Health Partners adds Epic's Healthy Planet population health tool

Written by Jessica Kim Cohen | September 26, 2017 | Print | Email

Affirmant Health Partners, a Portage, Mich.-based clinically integrated network, signed an agreement to implement Epic's Healthy Planet Constellation Sept. 12, a spokesperson confirmed to *Becker's Hospital Review*.

Affirmant Health Partners, a physician-led network, comprises six health systems in Michigan. With Healthy Planet Constellation, Affirmant Health Partners hopes to develop a central data platform to help coordinate delivery, monitor quality and manage costs associated with patient care.

The Healthy Planet Constellation module, which will connect with Epic EHR and existing population health software at Affirmant-affiliated hospitals, will aggregate and analyze clinical and claims data to provide clinicians with insights related to patient health trends.

"These tools will help them answer questions like: Where are we seeing increases in high-cost medication use? Who is able to keep their [congestive heart failure] patients out of the hospital? How are they doing that?" said Alan Hutchison, vice president of Connect and population health at Epic. "These insights will help them better align with payers, providers and employers across Michigan as they improve quality and manage cost."

Let's Get Social!

Affirmant is getting social on social media. This month we joined the [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#) platforms to connect with current and potential stakeholders. If you are active on either of these platform, please find us or even tweet at us @Affirmant.



Affirmant Health Partners
Hospital & Health Care • Portage, MI • 8 followers

1 connection works here. See all 3 employees on LinkedIn →

Following See jobs



Affirmant @Affirmant · Sep 27

Our site is officially live thanks to @Group55 and their amazing work! Visit & learn more about @Affirmant