



## The Physician Alliance and Blueprint for Affordability overview

### The Physician Alliance overview

The Physician Alliance formed in 2011 when five local physician organizations came together to create a new physician organization model that remains patient-centered while reducing costs. TPA strives to improve the health of the patient populations we serve by assisting our physicians in achieving clinical excellence. We do this by developing and implementing innovative strategies, building robust partnerships and facilitating best practices.

As one of the largest physician organizations in Michigan, TPA represents nearly 2,300 primary care and specialty physicians in southeast Michigan. Physician members include independent practitioners, as well as, providers employed with Ascension St. John Providence. TPA is an independent physician organization that partners with payors, health systems, other physician organizations and companies to provide high quality, low cost care to the patient populations we serve.

TPA is also co-owner of Partners in Care, a health care contracting entity, with Ascension St. John Providence.

### Blueprint Q&A

#### **What is Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan's Blueprint for Affordability?**

Blueprint for Affordability is Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan's new value-based reimbursement program for PPO providers. It evolves payment into a shared-risk formula by holding providers financially accountable for better managing their patient population and reducing the cost of care while maintaining quality standards. Risk-sharing in the Blueprint for Affordability program refers to when hospital and physician organizations agree to take financial accountability for the total quality and cost of their patients' care. Providers who successfully manage the health and cost of care for their patients share in the savings generated. Those who don't share in the cost. **Visit [blueprintforaffordability.com](http://blueprintforaffordability.com) for more information.**

The Physician Alliance (TPA) joins six other initial partners, including Ascension Michigan, Henry Ford Health System, Oakland Southfield Physicians, Michigan Medicine, Trinity Health and United Physicians, in this new partnership model focused on quality and cost of care. These organizations cover over 30 percent of Blue Cross' membership in Commercial PPO and Medicare Advantage PPO lines, representing approximately 600,000 members and over \$4 billion in healthcare spending.

#### **Why is TPA joining Blue Cross in this effort? How does it serve our patients?**

The Physician Alliance's participation in Blueprint for Affordability offers an opportunity to build off of a strong foundation of collaboration with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan.

Risk contracting is the future of healthcare and Blueprint is the next generation of providing optimal care delivery for patients while simultaneously reducing cost and improving reimbursement for providers. TPA is pleased to be at the forefront of creating a model that engages multiple parties to work together for shared

risk in population health management. Collaborative opportunities to improve quality and cost will benefit all parties involved, and most importantly, the patients we all care for.

TPA has a long history of partnering with BCBSM. Our collaboration has led to clinical improvement, new patient-centered initiatives and innovative ideas in healthcare, including:

- 93% of TPA primary care physicians are designated patient centered medical home (PCMH)
- 879 specialty physicians received value-based reimbursement recognition
- TPA's consecutive recognition as a BCBSM cost benchmark performer under the patient-centered medical home (PCMH) program
- Development of best practices to lower emergency department utilization, increase telehealth visits and improve diabetes management
- Participation in BCBSM's Organized System of Care narrow network of high quality, low cost physicians

TPA physicians practice patient centered principles of care to improve patient outcomes and reduce health care costs. We believe that participating in Blueprint and creating strong partnerships with those involved will assist with this work and ultimately help all parties better manage our mutual population's health and cost of care.

#### **How do our physicians benefit from this new payment model?**

Blueprint stimulates all parties (physician organizations, health systems and BCBSM) to work together to develop new processes for keeping patients healthy and out of the costliest healthcare environments without compromising patient care. These efforts will ultimately result in savings. The new payment model allows our physicians to earn a share of the savings realized for their efforts in improving the health of their patients while simultaneously reducing the cost, which are desired outcomes by all parties.

#### **What Blue Cross plans are included in Blueprint? When does it start?**

Commercial PPO and Medicare Advantage PPO lines of business are included in Blueprint for Affordability. PPO provider contracts start in January 2020 with those organizations currently participating in Blueprint.

#### **Are all TPA physician members participating in Blueprint for Affordability?**

No. Blueprint includes a narrow network of physicians. Those physicians qualified to participate in TPA's Organized System of Care network will be included in the Blueprint program. To be in TPA's OSC, primary care physicians must be designated patient-centered medical home (PCMH) and specialists must be receiving BCBSM's value-based reimbursement or receive at least a 3-star rating in TPA's Service Excellence Awards – Care Coordination.

#### **How does this affect TPA's partnership with Ascension?**

TPA is fortunate to have a strong partnership with Ascension Southeast Michigan. In fact, in 2011, TPA and St. John Providence (now Ascension SEM) formed a new and innovative 50/50 partnership called Partners in Care (PIC). The PIC partnership was formed to improve collaboration between our physician organization and the health system. Blueprint is something TPA and Ascension SEM leaders have been preparing for since PIC's inception, except now we will have the other key partner (BCBSM) at the table with us to further improve the health of our patients and the quality and cost of care we provide to them. Blueprint will only improve the relationship between TPA and Ascension SEM.