Bridges to Excellence Physician Incentive Program

2015

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Bridges to Excellence (BTE) is a physician recognition program from Health Care Incentives Improvement Institute (HCI3) designed to measure the quality of care delivered with focus on managing patients with chronic conditions.

To address the widespread diabetes issue in Texas, Superior HealthPlan is now a proud partner of the HCI3's Bridges to Excellence® (BTE) Diabetes Care Recognition Program. The BTE Diabetes Care Recognition Program is a clinician recognition program intended to identify clinicians who deliver high-value care to patients with diabetes.

"According to the Texas Health Institute, diabetes affects one in three Texans and costs the state more than $12.5 billion a year. The number of adult Texans with diabetes is expected to quadruple over the next three decades to nearly 8 million."

- Texas Health Institute

Bridges to Excellence

Overview

BTE has recognition programs for health care professionals who work with asthma, cardiac, CHF, cardiology, COPD, CAD, AGA IBD, depression, diabetes, hypertension, physician office, spine and medical home. Each program has three levels of recognition; I, II and III each indicating a different performance level.

Once recognized, physicians are eligible for incentive programs from health plans, like Superior HealthPlan, as well as entry in HCI3's Inquire system. Inquire is a consumer resource for finding high quality physicians and is available online or through a smart phone app.

Studies of the BTE program demonstrate that participation in BTE programs leads to improved physician performance, better patient health and reduced costs of care.

Find out more at http://inquirehealthcare.org/clinician_search/index.php.

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Becoming Recognized

The first step to achieving BTE recognition is to decide which of HCI3's chronic conditions program would best fit. A physician must treat at least 25 patients with the chronic condition to qualify. Another important consideration is what rewards are available for the different programs. Details on the awards can be found at http://www.hci3.org/participate_in_bridges_to_excellence/clinicians/rewards.

Superior HealthPlan incents physicians who participate in the BTE diabetes program. Data can be submitted through NCQA's Diabetes Recognition Program, through the Bridges to Excellence application, or directly from certain EMRs. Once the data is received, it is reviewed by a performance assessment organization to see if the physician qualifies for recognition. Review details on how to apply for recognition at http://www.hci3.org/participate_in_bridges_to_excellence/clinicians/recognition.

Bridges to Excellence Diabetes Program

HCI3 worked with diabetes experts to create measures to assess and reward high performance by physicians. To earn recognition in diabetes, clinicians must meet benchmarks on measures such as:

- Blood pressure
- LDL levels
- HgBA1c levels
- Ophthalmologic and podiatry exams
- Nephropathy assessment
- Body mass index

Superior HealthPlan Bridges to Excellence Diabetes Incentive Program

Overview

Superior HealthPlan physicians who participate in any product line, who have an open panel or who are accepting new patients in the case of specialists, and who are BTE recognized for diabetes will be eligible for the incentive program.

Incentives will be a per-member-with-diabetes-per-year (PMPY) bonus. The amount of incentives will be dependent on the level of recognition achieved.

- Level I: $100/PMPY
- Level II: $125/PMPY
- Level III: $150/PMPY

Frequency of Payment

Incentives will be paid quarterly. Superior HealthPlan will pay the physician 25% of the PMPY amount for each of the first (March 30th), second (June 30th), and fourth (December 31st) quarters, dependent on the highest level of recognition achieved that quarter.

For the third quarter payment (September 30th), Superior HealthPlan will review the HEDIS results for diabetes measures for that physician. If results are above the 90th percentile, then 25% of the PMPY amount will be paid.

Member Identification

Members with diabetes are identified using the following criteria. They must:

- Be a Superior member.
- Be five years of age or older.
- Have at least one claim with a qualifying ICD-9 diagnosis code from the following:
    - 250.xx - Diabetes
    - 357.2x - Polyneuropathy in diabetes
    - 362.0x - Diabetic retinopathy
    - 366.41 - Diabetic cataract
- Have submitted a qualified claim within the most recent 15 months of claims history.

Members who have drug induced diabetes or gestational diabetes are not eligible for this program. Additionally, Coordination of Benefit (COB) claims will not be considered.

Member Attribution

Attribution is the process of linking a member to a physician for the BTE Diabetes Care Recognition program. members are attributed to a BTE recognized physician using the following criteria:

- The physician must be an MD or DO, and non-hospital based.
- The member must have at least one face-to-face claim with an E&M code.

If a member sees multiple physicians, the following hierarchy will apply for attribution:

- Endocrinologist is the first selected physician.
- If the member sees multiple physicians, the physician with the greatest number of claim service dates is attributed.
- If the member still sees multiple physicians, the physician with the most recent service date claim is selected.
- If the member still sees multiple physicians, the physician with the largest total allowed dollars is selected.
- Members are re-attributed to a physician every quarter depending on attribution logic.

Enrollment

Physicians that meet the Superior HealthPlan BTE Diabetes Incentive Program criteria and wish to enroll can contact the Provider Relations Representative assigned to their area.

About Superior HealthPlan

Austin-based Superior HealthPlan (Superior) is a managed care company that employs more than 1,600 people across 10 Texas offices. Superior is a wholly owned subsidiary of Centene Corporation, a leading multi-line healthcare enterprise offering both core Medicaid and specialty services. Superior is licensed by the Texas Department of Insurance and is a Qualified Health Plan issuer in the Texas Health Insurance Marketplace. More information on Superior can be found at www.SuperiorHealthPlan.com.

About Healthcare Incentives Improvement Institute (HCI3)

HCI3 is a non-profit organization based in Newtown, Connecticut whose mission is to improve healthcare quality and value through evidence based incentive programs. They have implemented two brands to achieve their mission: Bridges to Excellence and Prometheus Payment. More information on HCI3 can be found at www.hci3.org.