



News from

COMPTROLLER KEVIN LEMBO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2020

Contact: Tyler Van Buren
(860) 702-3325
tyler.vanburen@ct.gov

COMPTROLLER LEMBO LAUNCHES “NETWORK OF DISTINCTION” TO DELIVER HIGHEST-QUALITY CARE AND SAVE ON COSTS

Partnership with Signify Health will improve health outcomes for more than 220,000 state health plan members with comprehensive “episode of care” pricing

The Office of the State Comptroller is partnering with [Signify Health](#) to improve health outcomes for certain common procedures and save on costs through a new “*Network of Distinction*” program. The doctors, hospitals and provider groups in the network will provide improved patient outcomes at a competitive fixed price for care from evaluation to recovery.

This innovative “episode of care” delivery and payment model establishes a new industry standard by aligning clinical and financial incentives for the state employee health plan and the Connecticut Partnership Plan, totaling more than 220,000 members. Under the initial agreement, 180 health care provider groups have committed to meet a set of quality care standards at the lowest possible cost. New groups will continue to be added throughout the year.

“By prioritizing the highest-quality care and aggressively negotiating comprehensive pricing, we can achieve the dual goals of lowering overall health costs and achieving better outcomes,” said **Comptroller Kevin Lembo**. “Everyone deserves access to dependable health care and, by leveraging the market power of the state health plan, it’s my hope that we can start shifting the dynamic statewide to more patient-centered, preventive care.”

The Network of Distinction program significantly reduces variations in costs by setting fixed prices for certain health events that may be delivered by multiple providers across multiple sites, a model known as an “episode of care” payment. Over 20 procedures and conditions will be available at launch including

knee replacement, colonoscopy, cataract surgery and care related to pregnancy. Also featured is a comprehensive spine episode aimed at helping members avoid surgery.

Signify Health is supporting the state with its set of episodes of care solutions that include identifying, contracting with and supporting all of the providers in the Network of Distinction, as well as all other providers that have agreed to fixed, guaranteed episode pricing. This allows the state to improve patient outcomes and secure significant savings by contracting with a large portion of the network and the highest-quality options.

“We are proud to be working alongside the State of Connecticut to offer higher-quality and more cost-effective care that will drive better health and social outcomes for people living across the state,” said **Kyle Armbruster, CEO of Signify Health**. “Episode-based payment models have been proven in the Medicare space. Now, Connecticut is showing how effective they can be in the employer space. This represents a first for the nation in the breadth of conditions and procedures that will be managed collaboratively by network providers and sets a new benchmark for value-based care in the country.”

Creating accountability for episode-of-care outcomes better aligns the incentives for providers and patients. The hospitals, health systems and physician groups selected into the Network of Distinction all have low rates of complications and below-average episode prices. They deliver high quality and affordable care.

The 180 provider groups in the Network of Distinction are affiliated with Community Medical Group, Connecticut GI, PC, Griffin Hospital, Prospect Medical Eastern CT Health Network, Prospect Medical Waterbury Health, and UConn Health-John Dempsey Hospital. Over the coming months, the State Comptroller’s Office will continue to expand the network with hospitals and health care providers that verifiably deliver the best health care outcomes for patients at competitive prices. An additional 50 provider groups are expected to join the network by the end of 2020.

“Through this program, our care teams have both data and actionable insights they can apply immediately to help improve patient health along their care journey in real time,” said **Joseph Quaranta, MD, President, Community Medical Group**. “We are honored to be part of a program that supports our commitment to provide superior, high-value clinical care and that allows us to spend more time focusing on what is most important—caring for our patients.”

“We are pleased to participate in this innovative program,” said **Patrick Charnel, CEO of Griffin Hospital**. “It showcases the tremendous value Griffin Hospital offers with its best-in-class quality, exceptional patient experience and highly competitive pricing. The broader focus of the programs model motivates us to effectively manage the entire episode of care by incentivizing greater efficiency and better outcomes.”

State health plan members, including municipal members participating through the Partnership Plan, are encouraged to [contact Health Navigator](#) to locate a Network of Distinction provider or location.

About Signify Health

[Signify Health](#) is a leading provider of technology-enabled healthcare solutions designed to keep people healthy and happy at home. We are accelerating the movement to value-based care by working with payers and providers to address both the financing and delivery of care, and sharing accountability for driving better outcomes for the individuals and families we serve. Our innovative episodes of care payment models and personalized health assessment and care coordination services enable us to close clinical and social care gaps, manage risk and drive a better experience for millions of people each year. Applying powerful analytics and clinical expertise, we support individuals' health journeys from the acute care facility to the ideal next site of care and all the way to a place of residence, helping people get home sooner and stay there longer. We support care needs anywhere in the U.S. through our high-performance provider and community networks – including the nation's largest mobile field-based network of doctors and nurse practitioners trained and ready for in-home visits. For more information on how we are taking health homeward, visit us at signifyhealth.com.

***** END *****