

Clinical Integration Overview

Clinical Integration is commonly defined as primary care physicians, physician specialists and health systems working together, using proven protocols and measures, to improve patient care.

The Clinical Integration program with Mount Carmel Health Partners is implementing physician-directed quality improvement programs, focusing on improving patient care and clinical outcomes, and being rewarded for the value we provide in the market.

Clinical Integration is designed to respond to market dynamics which achieve the following:

- Demonstrate improved clinical outcomes and evidence-based care for patients.
- Reduce healthcare costs for patients, employers and health plans.
- Enhance the coordination of care between physicians, hospitals and other healthcare providers.
- Assist with Performance Quality Rating Scale (PQRS) reporting and performance.
- Facilitate the delivery of the right care at the right time in the right setting.
- Improve reimbursement through demonstration of quality and cost improvement.

Clinical Integration can impact reimbursement to physicians and hospitals. Clinical Integration is a legally-approved model that requires physicians and hospitals to demonstrate the value of care provided to patients through quality and efficiencies. The result of demonstrated value to payers in the market often creates economic benefits to all parties that otherwise would not be lawfully permitted.

Clinical Integration is already taking place. Physician-hospital organizations (PHO) throughout the nation are currently demonstrating meaningful results as part of their Clinical Integration programs. Quality improvements are occurring because physicians and hospitals are equipped with the tools, education, and appropriate resources to build a delivery system that demonstrates value to the market.

Mount Carmel Health Partners has demonstrated many of the requirements of Clinical Integration for some time. Active involvement with quality programs involving payers, specifically MediGold and our Associate Health Plan has resulted in financial rewards for our physicians. Our strength in the future will be based on the ability of our network of hospitals and physicians to continue to build on the successes of the past and to collaborate in new and different ways with payers.

Existing pay-for-performance projects will be exclusive to physicians in the Clinical Integration program. It is appropriate that future pay-for-quality programs go through the Clinical Integration program. On or after July 1, current programs will end at the conclusion of the program-specific measurement period. Programs which renew will only be offered to those physicians in the Clinical Integration program. While most programs adopted thus far have been primary care-based, the patient registry will enable us to develop programs for specialty physicians.

Physician-led committees will develop, monitor and review quality measures for physicians who participate in the Clinical Integration program. The core set of quality

measures are determined utilizing evidence-based guidelines and may be specific by specialty when appropriate. Additional measures will eventually be created for all specialties. The Clinical Integration program will utilize the MedVente Patient Registry to support physicians in tracking quality measures while improving the care of patients. Using this information, we will work with payers to provide physicians with financial incentives for their quality performance. The PHO will work with those requiring assistance with improving performance results.

Clinical Integration prepares Health Partners' physicians for future changes associated with Healthcare Reform. While many aspects of the Healthcare Reform bill have not been fully defined, it seems certain that demonstrating quality, lowering costs, and managing population health will be the key to future success. Clinical Integration is intended to achieve these results and earn rewards or avoid penalties for failing to meet these objectives. Clinical Integration is believed to be a step towards developing the framework of an Accountable Care Organization (ACO).