

Memorandum of Understanding for the Washington Primary Care Transformation Initiative

I. Purpose

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services through its Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMS Innovation Center) and the Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA) is to establish a collaborative relationship to enhance the multi-payer efforts to support primary care in the state of Washington through the Primary Care Transformation Initiative (PCTI).

II. Background

The PCTI is a statewide effort to support primary care: The PCTI is a collaborative project among health plans, providers, purchasers, and the HCA to strengthen and advance primary care in Washington through an integrated whole-person approach that includes behavioral and preventive services.

The PCTI uses a provider recognition program and an alternative payment model: The PCTI recognizes primary care practices based on their capabilities and performance on 10 core accountabilities and stratifies them into three recognition levels. The PCTI also offers alternative payment models that align with the recognition levels and provide incentives for quality and prospective payment.

The PCTI is guided by the Multi-payer Collaborative: The PCTI is supported by a memorandum of understanding among health plans that outlines their commitments to participate in the Multi-payer Collaborative, adhere to the alternative payment policies, and use the recognition program to inform their contracting strategies. The Multi-payer Collaborative also develops common messages and quality measures to reduce administrative burden and foster alignment.

The overarching framework of the PCTI is well aligned with the CMS Innovation Center's Making Care Primary Model: The goals and principles, conceptual framework, and specific design elements of the PCTI are aligned with the Making Care Primary Model. That alignment is intentionally designed to support practices in participating in the Making Care Primary Model without additional administrative burden and complexity driven by differing program requirements.

The CMS Innovation Center's ongoing collaboration with the Multi-payer Collaborative is critical for the PCTI's success: The CMS Innovation Center's involvement ensures that

the PCTI's development and refinement align with the Making Care Primary Model, and that messaging about Making Care Primary Model in Washington is accurate. Additionally, the CMS Innovation Center's involvement lends additional credibility to the PCTI, which increases the likelihood that practices will participate.

III. Scope of CMS Innovation Center Participation

1) Ongoing and active participation in the Washington Multi-payer Collaborative meetings to foster collaborative support strategies for primary care.

2) Ongoing participation in the Washington Multi-payer Collaborative to align messaging and stakeholder engagement strategies in support of the PCTI and Making Care Primary Model, to the extent possible.

IV. MOU Term, Termination, Modification

1. **Effective Date.** This MOU shall be effective when it is signed by the last party to sign it (as indicated by the date associated with that party's signature).
2. **MOU Term.** This MOU shall remain in effect from the Effective Date through the December 31, 2034, unless sooner terminated in accordance with section IV.3.
3. **Termination.** Termination of this MOU will not be grounds for termination of the Making Care Primary Model or any agreements associated with the Making Care Primary Model. Either party may terminate this MOU by providing at least 90 days' advance written notice to the other party. CMS reserves the right to terminate this MOU automatically, without advance written notice if CMS terminates the MCP Model Performance Period.
4. **Modification.** This MOU may be modified or amended only in a written instrument signed by both parties.

V. Signatures

Each party is signing this MOU on the date stated opposite that party's signature. If a party signs but fails to date a signature, the date that the other party receives the signing party's signature will be deemed to be the date that the signing party signed this MOU. The Effective Date of this MOU is the date when this MOU is signed by the last party to sign it.

Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA):

Date: July 2, 2024

By: Susan E. Birch



Name of authorized signatory

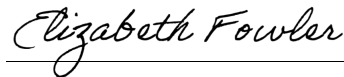
Director, WA State Health Care Authority

Title

Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMS Innovation Center):

Date: July 2, 2024

By: Elizabeth Fowler



Name of authorized signatory

Director, CMS Innovation Center

Title