
From: Tom Holt
Sent: Monday, August 7, 2023 9:38 AM
To: EMERSON Lisa * DCBS
Subject: comments on SB1529 PCP assignment

Lisa –

I'm reaching out on behalf of the Oregon Association of Health Underwriters, the professionals who work with businesses and individuals on their health benefits needs, regarding Primary Care Assignment required under SB1529.

OAHU concurs with cautions raised by health plans during the July 11 SB1529 Rules Advisory Committee. Requiring health plans to assign to PCPs persons who have no recent record of any health encounter would create administrative chaos and add significant, avoidable costs.

The intentions behind SB1529 were good. Patients who have ongoing health issues often benefit from better care coordination through primary care. However, we need to remember that the large portion of the insured population that is essentially healthy and thus does not have any need for primary care is not likely to be responsive to efforts to get them to pro-actively choose a provider.

We recommend interpreting the statute to focus PCP assignment requirements on those who reasonably may be attributed to a provider based on their claims history. Such an approach would achieve the core objective of PCP assignment in SB1529, would be a better consumer experience, and avoid administrative waste.

Best regards,

Tom Holt
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