Population Health

Aligning Financial Incentives

At Intermountain, our mission is helping people live the healthiest lives possible®, and we are committed to Population Health. Our approach will achieve three important goals:

1. Better health
2. Better care
3. More affordable costs

Population Health helps us fulfill our mission and our vision to be a model healthcare organization, providing extraordinary care. This approach includes three key strategies:

1. Providing optimal care based on evidence. We strive to consistently use treatments and procedures proven effective. We avoid under-treatment, over-treatment, and the misuse of resources.
2. Engaging patients. We achieve better health for those we serve by promoting health and wellness. We help patients become more engaged in their health and healthcare choices.
3. Aligning financial incentives. We strive to reward high-quality care and service. We also continue our traditional focus on efficiency, which helps us keep costs low.

A closer look at aligning financial incentives

Population Health involves everyone in improving care: patients and health plan members, healthcare organizations, physicians, payers, and the community. Aligning financial incentives for all involved is key.

Everyone benefits from high-quality, high-value care. We need a payment system that rewards hospitals and physicians for providing the right care rather than just more care. With this in mind, we are developing new models for compensating hospitals and physicians. These models are based on a combination of productivity, quality, service, and total cost of care. In addition, SelectHealth is designing health plan benefits that encourage members to consider financial impacts of their healthcare decisions. We also continue our traditional focus on efficiency, which helps us manage costs.

The launch of SelectHealth Share in January 2016 hit a significant milestone of keeping annual rate increases closer to the general inflation rate and including Population Health concepts in a commercial health plan.

Also, Intermountain is engaging leaders in both federal and state governments to improve the effectiveness of Medicare, Medicaid, and other government programs.

Aligning financial incentives highlights

• Physician Payment Model. A physician payment model based on Population Health principles launched in 2016. The model includes payments based on measures for productivity, quality, patient experience, and product performance. Tools developed for the model give physicians data to support care decisions. Clinicians can see current performance and feedback on these measures. They can also see overall population health metrics, patient risk scores, and variances in how care is provided.

• Physician Networks. Intermountain/SelectHealth have physician networks for SelectHealth Share, Medicare, and Medicaid products. Intermountain also has a provider panel to support a population health model contracted by other highly aligned payers.

• Health Benefit Design. SelectHealth is focusing on health plan benefit design that encourages plan members to become more engaged in their personal health and wellness. The design also supports members in becoming more involved in their personal healthcare decisions. In the future, we expect to offer this benefit design framework to other payers as well.

• SelectHealth. In addition to SelectHealth Share, SelectHealth continues to administer two population health products: 1) SelectHealth Advantage, a Medicare Advantage plan; and 2) SelectHealth Community Care, a Utah Medicaid ACO plan.

• Promoting Highly Effective Care. Intermountain supports the Institute of Medicine recommendation to address three types of substandard care: under-treatment (doing too little); over-treatment (doing too much); and clinical mistakes. All three types of substandard care pose medical risks to patients. By providing the right care in the right setting at the right time by the right providers, caregivers at Intermountain are improving clinical quality. This also has an important side benefit: lower costs. In healthcare, higher quality tends to cost less. Patients have better medical outcomes and tend to experience fewer complications and readmissions.

More information

For more information and resources about Population Health, including a resource center with stories, time-line, glossary, and other tools, visit intermountain.net/sharedaccountability or call Intermountain Healthcare Population Health Department at 801.442.4555.

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