



Date: January 25, 2013

To: OHP fee-for-service primary care practitioners

From: Don Ross, Manager
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Subject: Clarification about how new CMS definition of primary care affects Oregon primary care providers

Last month, [we sent a notice](#) announcing that practitioners who meet the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) new definition of primary care practitioner would see an increased Medicaid reimbursement rate for two years under section 1202 of the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

We have received some important follow up questions to the letter and would like to provide clarification about what this change means for independent nurse practitioners, naturopaths, and other primary care providers who may not meet the new CMS definition. We apologize for any confusion the prior notice may have caused and welcome any additional questions or feedback.

To clarify, the new CMS definition is only about which providers may qualify for the enhanced reimbursements under ACA Section 1202. This was a decision at the federal level. Here is more detail that we hope will be helpful.

Oregon's definition of Medicaid primary care provider will not change

We will not change [Oregon's definition](#) of Medicaid primary care provider to align with the CMS definition. Instead, we will add the CMS definition alongside Oregon's definition in order to specify primary care providers who qualify for this new two-year reimbursement increase.

The CMS definition does not change Oregon's definition of primary care provider for other programs such as:

- Patient-Centered Primary Care Home (PCPCH) clinic recognition, or
- Medicaid PCPCH incentive payments under ACA Section 2703.

The CMS definition of primary care provider only determines which providers may qualify for this new 2-year reimbursement increase. It does not reduce reimbursement for any provider.

ACA Section 1202 limits the higher reimbursement rate to practitioners who meet the CMS definition of primary care practitioner. Oregon's primary care providers who meet CMS's definition will receive an enhanced rate for two years. Those who do not will receive [their existing primary care rate](#).

For more information

For more information about the new enhanced payment:

- [Section 1202 of the Affordable Care Act \(ACA\)](#)
- [Federal Register/ Vol 77, No 215 published on November 6, 2012](#), and the [December corrections to the Federal Register](#), establishing revisions required by ACA Section 1202
- [CMS questions and answers about fee-for-service reimbursement](#)
- [CMS questions and answers about managed care reimbursement](#)

For more information about Oregon's definition of Medicaid primary care or other programs

- [Oregon's definition of Medicaid primary care providers](#)
- [Description of Oregon's Medicaid fee-for-service payment rates](#)
- [Patient-Centered Primary Care Home Program](#)

Questions?

If you have any questions about this announcement, please don't hesitate to contact the Provider Services Unit. E-mail dmap.providerservices@state.or.us at any time or call 1-800-336-6016, Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Friday 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Phone lines are closed 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. daily, but if you leave a message we will call you back as soon as possible.)

Thank you for your patience as we work toward implementing this provision. We greatly appreciate the care you provide to all Oregon Health Plan patients.

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