

Value-Based Payment NEWS

News @ Deadline

Premier: CINs in APMs ‘Expanded Value-Based Care Capabilities to Manage COVID Surge’

Premier Inc. (NASDAQ: PINC), which calls itself “a healthcare improvement company,” reports survey results finding that participants in Alternative Payment Models have “drawn heavily on their population health capabilities to manage the COVID-19 pandemic and prevent the spread of the disease.” Those providers “had a significant head start in being able to provide quality and preventive care,” a statement adds, “while managing an influx of emergency COVID-19 cases.” That surge, though, “may compromise performance and lead to losses.”

Calling it “a sad paradox,” the company says that “all those commendable efforts may come with a heavy cost.” The added investments and increased utilization of hospital emergency services -- and the increases planned to clear the backlog of elective procedures -- “could drive the total cost of care up,” it says, “leading to penalties in some Medicare and many commercial APMs.” Here are details:

- 82% of APM participants “leverage care management support to manage COVID-19 and other patients.”
- 51% of those not in APMs do the same.
- 55% of APM participants use triage call centers.
- 31% of all others use them.
- 49% of the former use remote monitoring.
- 30% of the latter use it.
- 43% of APM providers use population health data to manage and predict cases.
- 20% of the others do.
- 29% of APM providers use claims data “to understand care delivered outside the acute setting.”
- 13% of non-APM providers do so.

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Surveys & Trends



Real-World Evidence Shows ‘Asthma Biologic Medication Users, Spend Doubled in 30 Months’

New research from Prime Therapeutics LLC, a national pharmacy benefit manager, finds that “among commercially insured members with asthma, the number who utilized biologics nearly doubled in a 2.5-year span.” The “amount of spending on those medications” did, too, a statement says. The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention says asthma affects 25 million, it adds, “at an estimated societal cost of \$82 billion.”

- *Biologic medicines are indicated for severe asthma, Prime points out, which “affects 10% of patients but accounts for 50% of total costs.”*
- *The company analyzed pharmacy and medical claims of 14 million commercially insured members, looking at Cinqair, Dupixent, Fasentra, Nucala and Xolair.*
- *During the study period, “the number of members with an asthma diagnosis using an asthma biologic increased by 78%, from 3.3 to 5.8 per 10,000 members,” the company reports.*
- *That “correlates with a cost increase of 85%,” it says, “from 45 cents to 84 cents PMPM.”*

A separate analysis “evaluated persistence and total cost of care in members new to asthma biologic therapy from among the same population,” the statement explains. 1,492 patients “fit the new initiator criteria of having an asthma diagnosis, being new to an asthma biologic and being continuously enrolled six months before and after the first asthma biologic claim.”

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