



Palliative Care

An update from the HCA

December 6, 2023

Joint Legislative Executive Committee
Presenter: Dr. Sophie Cain Miller
Medical Officer
Clinical Quality & Care Transformation

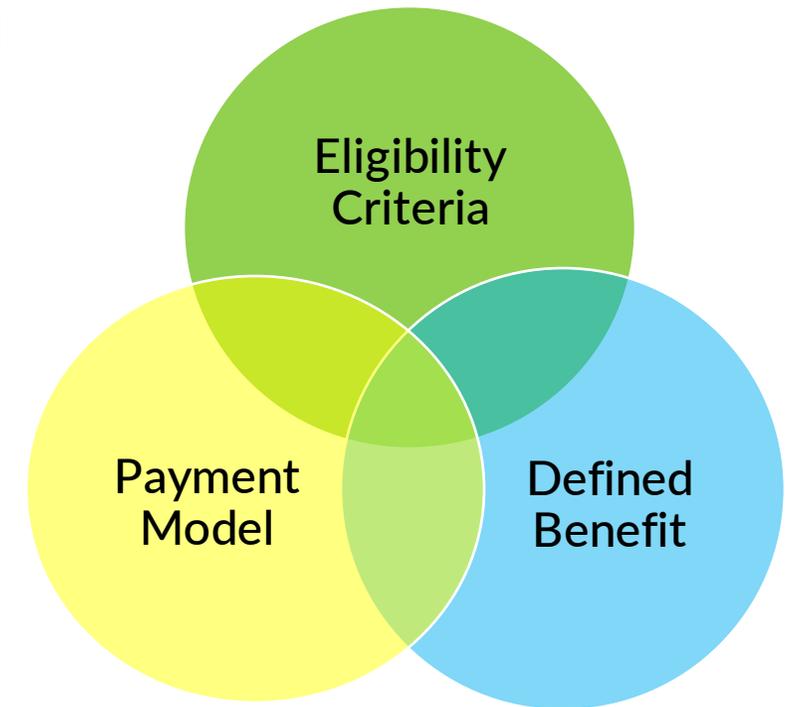
Washington State
Health Care Authority

Current state

- ▶ Existing palliative care relevant services
 - ▶ Comprehensive assessment and care planning for patients with cognitive impairment
 - ▶ Advanced care planning, end of life counseling
 - ▶ Health Home Program- care management, individual/family support, referral to community services
- ▶ Hospice coverage
 - ▶ Physician's hospice certification
 - ▶ Benefit includes care coordination, medications, home health, DME, etc.
- ▶ Pediatric palliative care
 - ▶ Life limiting condition with complex needs requiring case management
 - ▶ Benefit includes pain and symptom management, counseling, care conferences, etc.

Recent work

- ▶ ESSB 5693 – budget proviso allocating funding to help build a palliative care program:
 - ▶ *“design a standardized payment methodology for a palliative care benefit for the state Medicaid program and the employee and retiree benefit programs”*
- ▶ Collaboration with the Center for Evidence-based Policy from OHSU
 - ▶ Review of literature
 - ▶ Stakeholder and key informant interviews
 - ▶ Listening sessions



Ongoing work

- ▶ State Policy Institute to Improve Care for People with Serious Illness
 - ▶ Washington selected by the National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP) as member state
 - ▶ Provides Washington with expertise and technical assistance in developing a comprehensive benefit design
 - ▶ Provides venue for sharing strategies and solutions utilized by other states
 - ▶ Ongoing review and discussion on current state and options for future benefit design and payment methods
- ▶ Fall listening session
 - ▶ Attended by Washington subject matter experts and other stakeholders



Thank you!



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