A National Leader in Quality

Washington is ranked in the Top 5, at #4, in the 2019 Scorecard on State Health System Performance by The Commonwealth Fund. The Scorecard assesses all 50 states and the District of Columbia on 47 measures of access to health care, quality of care, service use and costs of care, health outcomes, and income-based health care disparities.

Washington Apple Health (Medicaid) is the backbone of our health care system, providing nearly 2 million people with comprehensive, whole-person health care. That’s about 1 in 4 Washingtonians.

- More than 800,000 kids are covered by Apple Health.
- 5000 non-citizen women received prenatal coverage through Apple Health.
- More than 100,000 elderly adults are covered by Apple Health.
- Apple Health covers over 1 million adults, more than half of whom were covered post ACA.
- Over 33,000 kids in foster care and adoption support services are covered by Apple Health.
- 87% of the covered lives are enrolled in managed care.

Our Clients Speak

- 93% said providers’ offices were open at times that were good for them.
- 86% said it was easy to get services.
- 91% said they were satisfied with Apple Health services.
- 96% said Apple Health helped their family.

2019 Social & Health Services Client Survey
Focusing on whole person health

Before care was integrated, Apple Health clients with co-occurring disorders had to navigate three separate systems in order to access the physical and behavioral health services they needed to stay healthy. The physical health, mental health, and substance use disorder treatment services delivery systems often didn’t communicate about clients’ care, which led to duplication of services, poorly coordinated care, worse health outcomes, and a frustrating experience for our states’ Apple Health clients and the providers who serve them.

Through this whole-person approach to care, physical and behavioral health needs are addressed in one system through an integrated network of providers, offering better coordinated care for patients and more seamless access to the services they need.

Purchasing for value

Targeted Outcomes

- Comprehensive diabetes care
- Controlling high blood pressure
- Antidepressant medication management:
  1. Effective acute-phase treatment
  2. Effective continuation phase treatment
- Immunization status
- Well-child visits
- Medication management for asthma

Paying for value is a primary strategy to achieving better health, better care, and lower costs. Meeting this goal will require shifting health care reimbursement strategies away from a system that pays for volume of service to one that rewards quality and outcomes.

In Apple Health, we have implemented value-based contracts with the five Apple Health managed care organizations (MCOs) we contract with. We are committed to ensuring our clients receive high quality care through our program, and we have devised a strategy that focuses the payments made to providers for service delivery to quality, ensuring shared accountability for each patient’s well-being and total cost of care. This requires thoughtful, evidence-based, collaborative management of physical, behavioral, and social determinants of health needs.

a healthier Washington

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