



History of health reform in Washington since passage of the Affordable Care Act

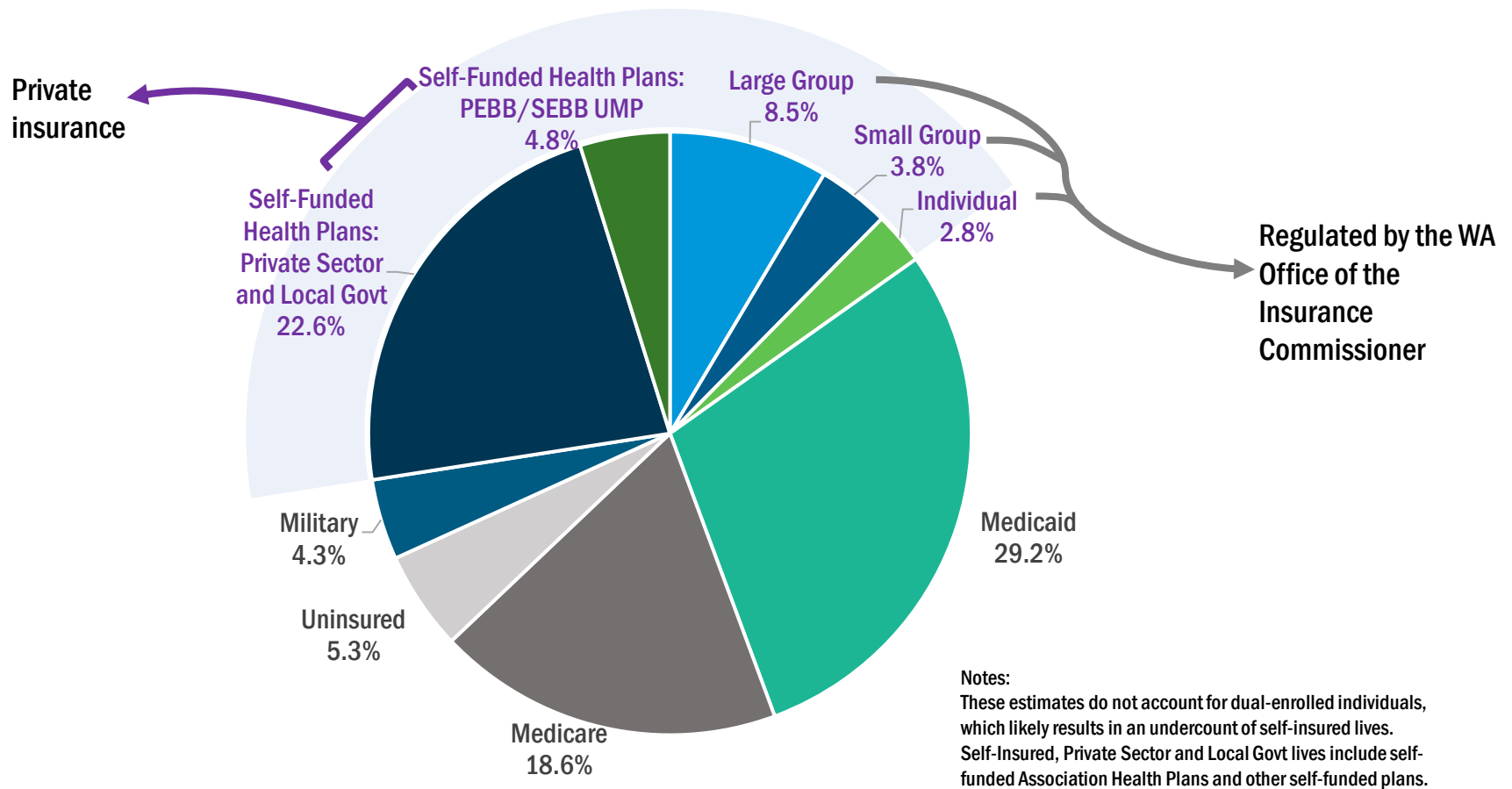
Presentation to Joint Select Committee on Health Care and Behavioral Health Oversight

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Mich'l Needham, Health Care Authority*



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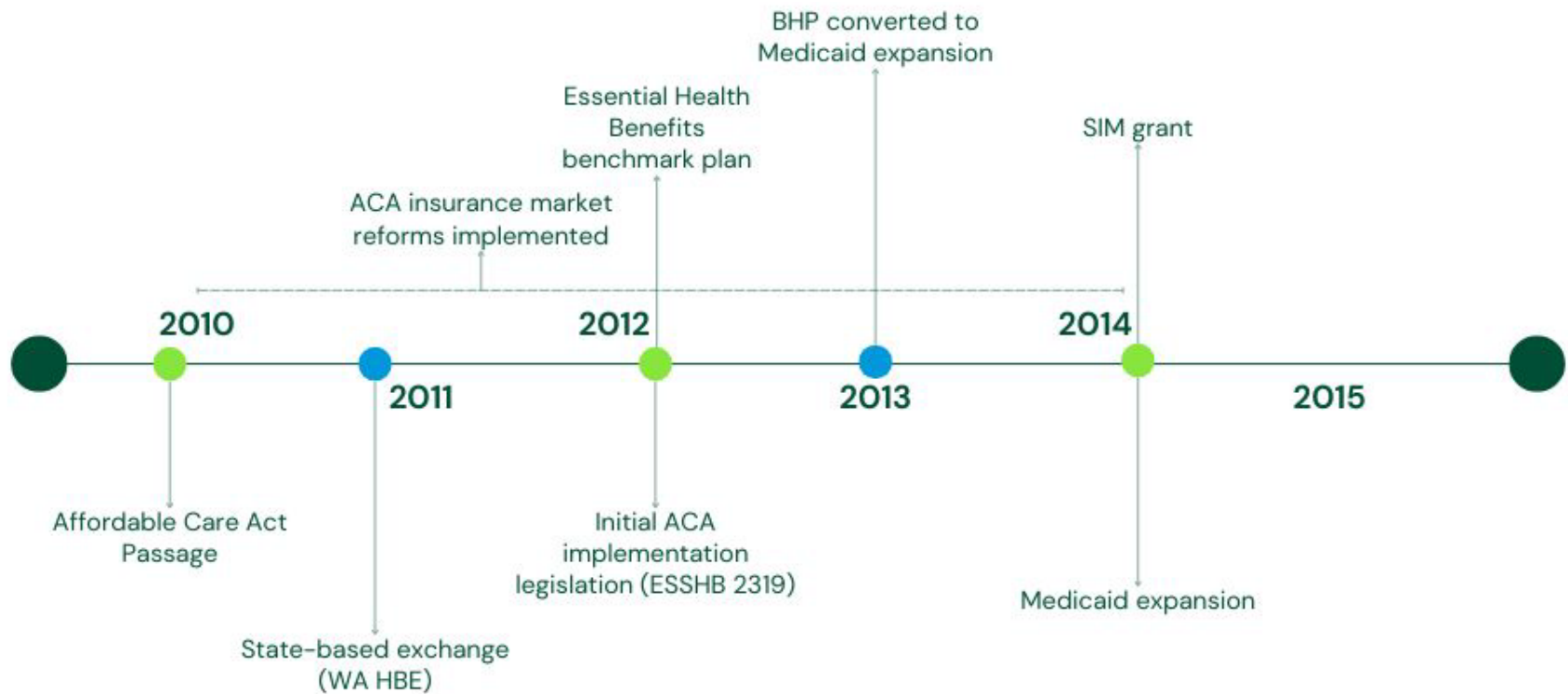
Source of Health Coverage for Washington Residents 2022



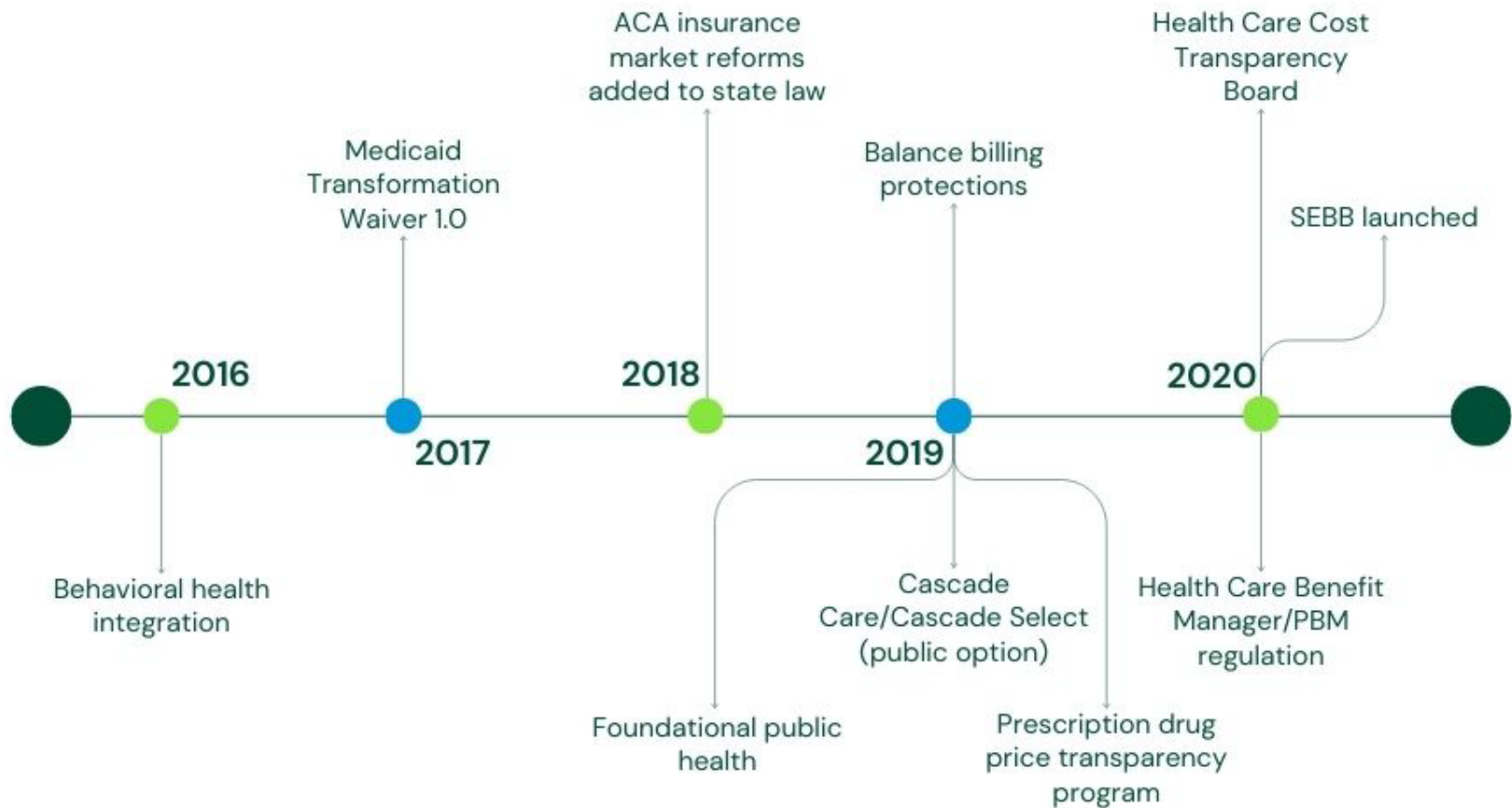
Background: pre-Affordable Care Act

- Washington has a long history of health care reforms enacted prior to passage of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) in 2010
 - Basic Health Program for low-income adults (1987)
 - Medicaid coverage for pregnant women – “First Steps” (1989)
 - Children’s coverage up to 250-300% of FPL (2007)
 - Universal Childhood Vaccines
 - Washington State Health Insurance Pool (WSHIP) (1987)
 - Hospital charity care (1989)
- Administrative simplification, evidence-based medicine, therapeutic substitution for prescription drugs

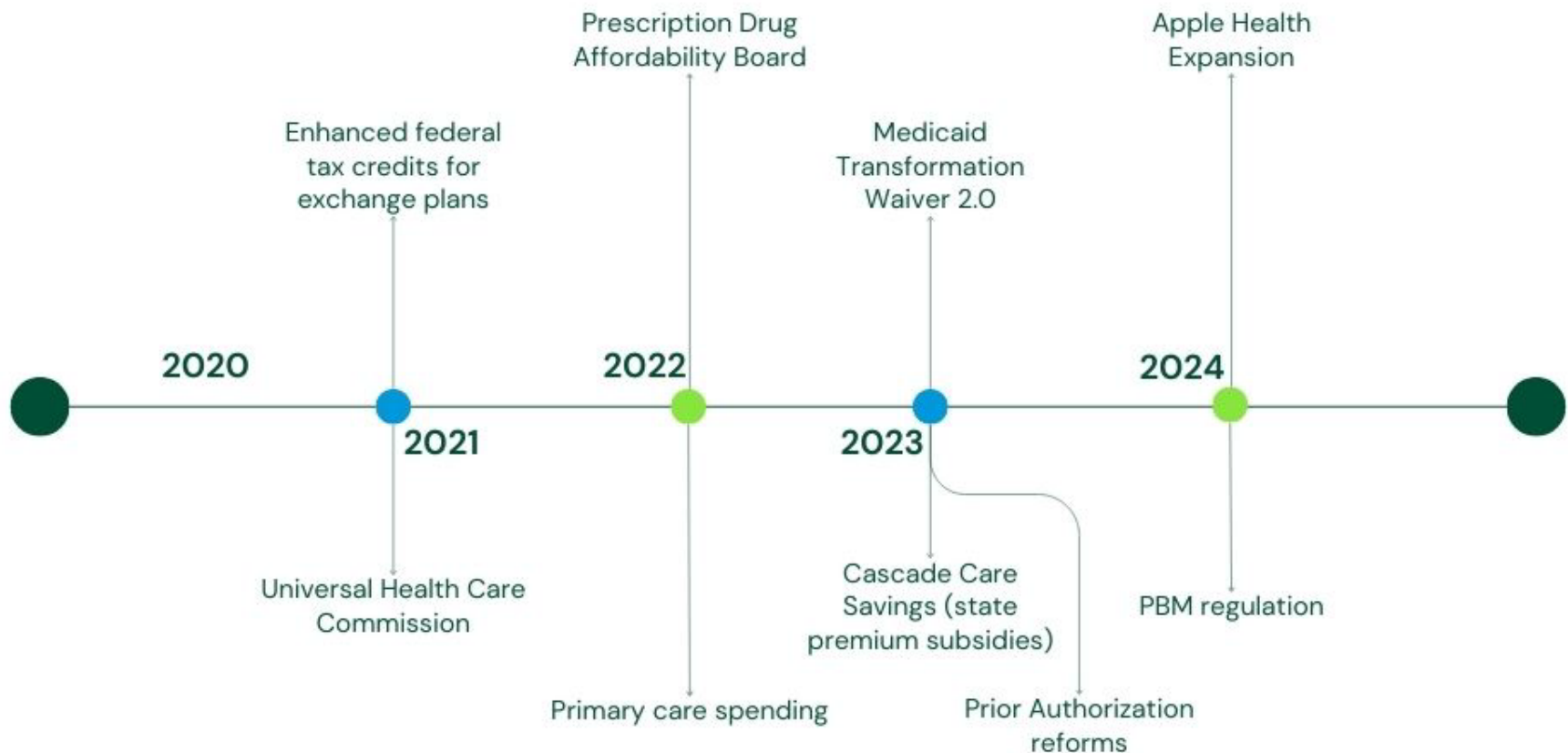
Timeline of health reforms: 2010-2016



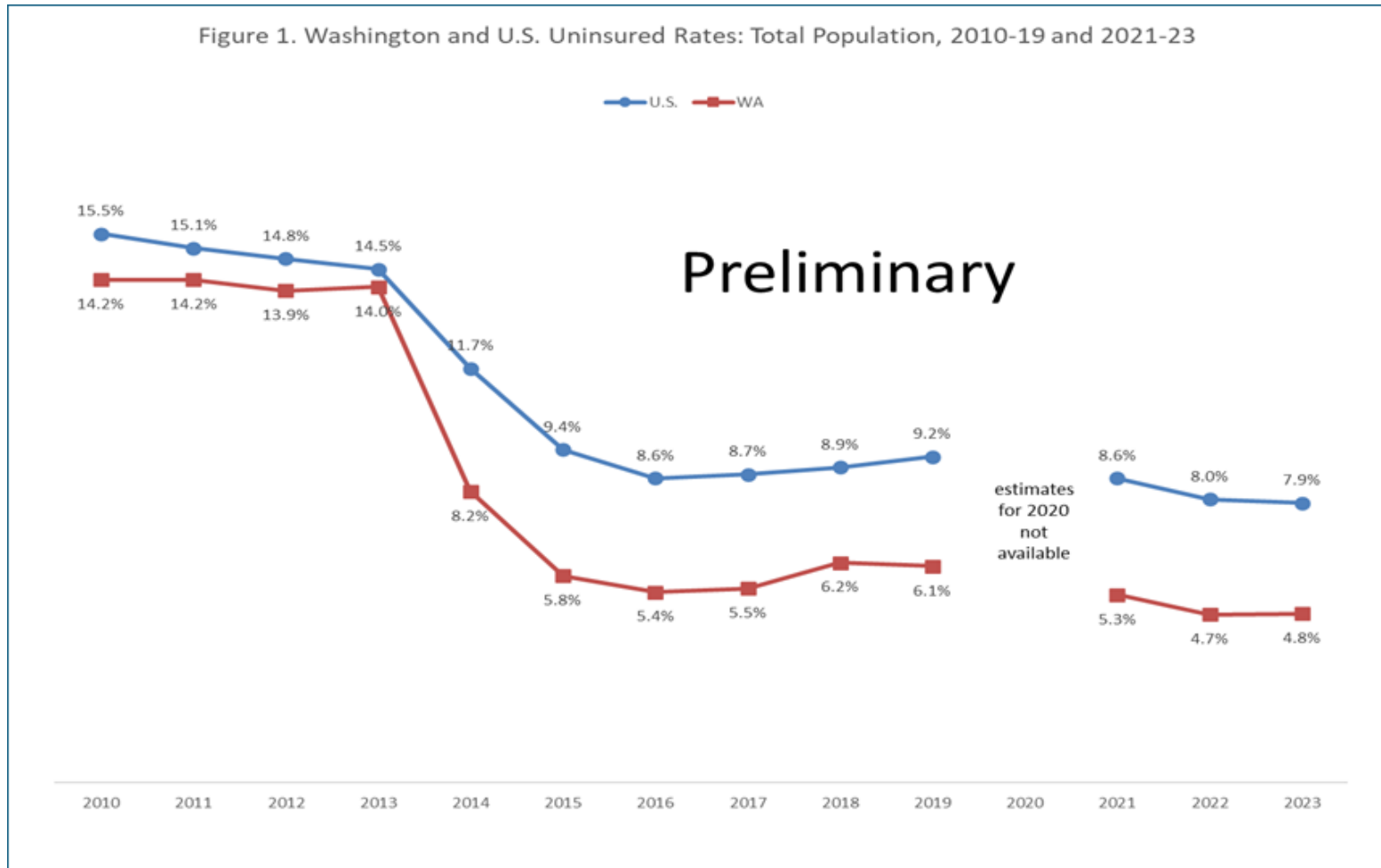
Timeline of health reforms: 2016-2020



Timeline of health reforms: 2020-present



Washington state's uninsured rate since ACA



Reasons for drop in WA's uninsured rate since 2014

- Medicaid expansion
- Affordable coverage through the exchange with federal tax credits
- Employer-sponsored coverage sustained
- State-only programs to fill coverage gaps
 - Cascade Select (public option)
 - Cascade Care savings
 - Apple Health expansion

Cross agency/program initiatives

- As a purchaser or regulator, Legislature/state agencies impact:
 - Medicaid
 - PEBB/SEBB
 - Fully-insured commercial health plans, including individual health plans
- Implementing cross-program initiatives can increase the impact of reforms and address administrative burdens
- There is significant crossover between Medicaid managed care organizations (MCOs), PEBB/SEBB plans and commercial health plans

Carrier market participation

Carrier	Medicaid MCO	PEBB/SEBB	Commercial
CHPW	✓		✓
Coordinated Care/Ambetter	✓		✓
Kaiser Health Plan of WA/NW		✓	✓
Molina	✓		✓
Premiera/LifeWise		✓	✓
Regence		✓ (TPA for UMP)	✓
United Healthcare	✓	✓	✓
Wellpoint	✓		

Cross-program initiatives

- Prior authorization (HB 1357 (2023)):
 - Set standards for prior authorization request response times, medical necessity criteria, transparency of prior authorization process
 - Alignment with federal rule requiring use of “Application Programming Interface” to allow direct “communication” between carrier prior authorization systems and provider/facility EHR’s.
 - Washington State FHIR® Enabled Prior Authorization Interoperability Workgroup, sponsored by the HCA, OIC and Gates Ventures, will begin work in January 2025.

Cross-program initiatives

Access to behavioral health (BH) care

- BH crisis services coverage – more closely aligning private coverage with HCA contracting, administration of the BH crisis system
- Residential substance use disorder services – prohibition of prior auth for initial admission, standardize medical necessity criteria (i.e. ASAM), continued stay review criteria and days of treatment, standardized prior auth request process

Administrative simplification

- Goal: Standardize administrative processes and develop best practice recommendations for use across carriers
- Partnership between The Healthcare Forum and OIC since 2009; OneHealthPort established in 1999
- Transition from OneHealthPort as lead organization for administrative simplification to Foundation for Health Care Quality in 2025

Cross-program initiatives

- Affordability initiatives
 - Health Care Cost Transparency Board activities & recommendations
 - OIC Affordability Report
 - Broad interagency collaboration, including HBE, Department of Health, Office of Financial Management, and Governor's Office
- Primary care spending goal and reporting
 - SB 5589 (2022): Sets target of 12% for primary care spend.
 - Primary care spend reporting:
 - HCA requires carriers to report primary care spending across Medicaid and PEBB/SEBB.
 - OIC goal to use same reporting via legislation in 2025
 - Goal: Increase transparency and accountability regarding primary care spending

Cross program initiatives

Washington State [Common measure set](#) for Health Care Quality and Cost:

- Based on ESHB 2572 (2014)
- Used across state purchased health care (Medicaid and PEBB/SEBB) and by HBE for qualified health plan certification
- Measures collected and reported by Washington Health Alliance in annual [Community Checkup](#) report

Questions?



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OIC's health care affordability webpage:
<https://www.insurance.wa.gov/health-care-cost-affordability>

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HCA's Health Care Cost Transparency Board
webpage: hca.wa.gov/costboard

HCA's website: hca.wa.gov

