



Idaho Healthcare Coalition

August 31, 2015

Dear Idaho Healthcare Provider,

I am personally writing to invite you to consider participation in the Statewide Healthcare Innovation Plan (SHIP). The Idaho SHIP is a \$40 million dollar grant from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation Center (CMMI) to transform healthcare in the state of Idaho. This transformation model has been designed by Idahoans for the healthcare system that serves Idahoans. The SHIP is a statewide effort to transform Idaho primary care practices to Patient Centered Medical Homes (PCMHs) and integrate these practices effectively into the local and regional medical and healthcare neighborhoods. Idaho has undertaken the challenge to transform our healthcare system from the current focus on volume of care to a focus on keeping people healthy. As physicians we are all aware that our current healthcare system will require significant redesign to reach the triple aim of improved healthcare, improved health outcomes and reduced healthcare costs. Joining the SHIP represents an important opportunity for primary care physicians to evolve our practices in anticipation of the many changes we all know are coming and needed to healthcare delivery.

So what benefits are in this grant that would make me and my practice consider participating? Here are some of the advantages offered to primary care physicians and practices who participate in the SHIP:

- 1. TRAINING AND FINANCIAL INCENTIVES:** The SHIP offers a unique opportunity for Idaho primary care physicians and practices to take advantage of training resources and financial incentives to support the challenge of practice transformation. Over the next three years Idaho will be recruiting approximately 55 clinic sites per year to participate in this transformation effort. Practices selected to participate will receive staff training, technical assistance, and practice-specific coaching in transformation to the PCMH model. In addition to this strong technical assistance support package there are financial incentives available, including a \$10,000 incentive per practice site to join the initiative, and additional incentive funds tied to performance on quality measures. The SHIP has a strong emphasis on the use of electronic health records and data to improve quality of care. Participating practices will also be connected to the Idaho Health Data Exchange (IHDE) at no cost, so they can access patient data from other providers and share their patient data to improve care coordination across the broader healthcare neighborhood.
- 2. SUSTAINABLE PAYMENT ENHANCEMENT OPPORTUNITIES:** The SHIP has engaged both private and public payers to redesign the way payment is made to practices participating in the SHIP. Participating payers include Blue Cross of Idaho, Regence, PacificSource, Select Health, Idaho Medicaid, and Medicare. While amounts to be paid and methods of payment vary from payer to payer, all payers are committed to changing the way they pay for patient centered care, recognizing that volume of visits doesn't necessarily result in well-coordinated, high quality care. Additional payment methodologies, in addition to traditional fee-for-service, proposed by payers participating in the SHIP include a variety of approaches such as per member per month (PMPM) fees, total cost of care payments, chronic care management fees, and pay for performance.

PROCESS FOR APPLICATION: Enclosed in this packet you will find several documents to better acquaint you with this opportunity and direction regarding how to move forward if you are interested:

1. SHIP AT A GLANCE: includes background about the initiative and outlines the seven program goals.
2. PCMH APPLICATION TIMELINE: outlines key steps and dates in the PCMH application and selection process
3. PCMH INTEREST APPLICATION*: to be completed by your clinic site, indicating your interest in being considered as a primary care PCMH transformation site due by September 14th. Later this fall, interested clinics will be invited to submit a formal application for selection into the first year's cohort of approximately 55 practices. If you feel you are not ready to undertake PCMH transformation in 2016 there will be 2 additional opportunities for primary care practices in 2017 and 2018. **Clinics that have not participated in a past PCMH pilot or initiative must complete the interest application in order to receive the full application.**

*A digital copy and online web form is available on our website (www.SHIP.idaho.gov). Instructions for digital submission are found on the application and web based form.

As a practicing family physician in Idaho and as the Governor appointed chair of the Idaho Healthcare Coalition that oversees this transformation effort, I strongly encourage you to consider participation in this exciting opportunity to change the way we integrate and coordinate our practice of medicine and change the way we are paid for our work. The data from the Idaho Patient-Centered Medical Home Collaborative has clearly demonstrated that physicians and practices who have made the transformation to a PCMH model find more satisfaction for themselves, for their staff and patients, improve patient care and health outcomes, and lower overall health system cost.

If you have additional questions or desire further information, please feel free to contact Heather Clark (ClarkH@dhw.idaho.gov) 208-334-0600 and please visit the Idaho SHIP website at www.SHIP.idaho.gov

Thank you for your time and interest in this important transformational grant to improve the health and healthcare of all Idahoans.


Ted Epperly, MD
CHAIR, Idaho Healthcare Coalition