

# Health Care For All

Massachusetts Health Care  
Training Forum  
January 2012

Health Care for

all

# Health Care For All

- Non-profit advocacy and health information organization. Goal is quality and affordable health care. We educate residents about health care system, and how to improve it.
- Helpline: 800-272-4232
- Health Law Advocates: 617-338-5241
- Web: [www.hcfama.org](http://www.hcfama.org)



# Topics

1. State Budget
2. Payment Reform & Duals Initiative
3. Limited and Tiered Network Health Insurance Plans
4. Improving Health Quality – Good resources for Patients
5. Get Involved!

# 1. State Budget

- 2013 will be another tough year
- Revenues increasing, but
- Costs going up even faster (*especially health care costs*)
- Also
  - Automatic state income tax cut
  - Possible federal cuts
- Bottom Line: More budget cuts expected

## 2. “Payment Reform” –New Vocabulary

- “Payment Reform” = changing how hospitals and doctors are paid.
  - Less “fee for service” payments
  - More: “global budgets”
- Goal: Save money and improve quality
- How: reward integrated care, promotion of health, prevention.
- Legislature planning to act soon

# MassHealth “Duals Initiative”

- 115,000 Dual eligible adults under 65 – disabled adults with Medicare and MassHealth
- MassHealth proposing integrating both plans into unified system
- Allows for better care coordination and more community services:
  - dental; vision; behavioral health, wellness

# 3. Limited & Tiered Health Plans

- New health plans with limited or tiered provider networks
  - Limited: smaller provider network than general plans
  - Tiered: higher co-pays (or other cost sharing) for some providers.
- Premiums may be lower, but limits on which doctors and hospitals are covered



## Limited, Regional and Tiered Network Plans: Choosing the Health Plan That's Right for You

### Health Insurance & Provider Networks

Massachusetts health insurers now offer lower-cost health insurance plan options with limited, regional and tiered networks. This guide can help you get the information you need to understand these options and make an informed decision.

State law now requires insurers to label any limited network as:

- Limited Provider Network
- Regional Provider Network
- Tiered Provider Network

- New DOI info sheet to guide consumers
- Important because members cannot switch plans until up for renewal



# 4. Improving Health Quality

- Many state initiatives to improve quality of care
  - Patient Centered Medical Home
  - MassHealth adjusting hospital payment based on readmission rates
- Patients can look for quality information on their own
  - 3 web sites to check out

# Mass.gov/MyHealthCareOptions

The screenshot shows the website's header with navigation links for "Physicians & Providers" and "Insurers & Employers". The main title "MyHealthCareOptions™" is displayed above a banner image of a smiling woman. Below the banner is the text "A Health Care Resource Provided by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Health Care Quality and Cost Council" and the "Mass.gov" logo. A secondary navigation bar includes links for "Patients & Families", "About The Ratings", "Frequently Asked Questions", "Resources & Tools", and "About Us".

**Announcement:**  
This website was updated with new Medical Group and Community Health Center quality data in October 2011 (previous update was July 2010). The hospital cost and quality data was last updated in January 2011, and is estimated to be refreshed in 2012. The periods covered by the data (which differ depending on data source) are specified as a section footnote on the Detailed Report tab.

**Choose your healthcare with confidence.**

**This site will help you learn about the quality & cost of health care.**

**Find and compare quality and costs at Massachusetts providers**

This website can help you answer questions such

# Mass.gov/MyHealthCareOptions

- Tool to learn about the patient safety, health care quality, and cost of care provided by Massachusetts hospitals and medical groups
- Lets one compare cost, quality and patient safety by location, procedure or condition; or view the ratings of a particular provider.

# MHQP.org - Mass Health Quality Partners



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## QUALITY INSIGHTS: HEALTHCARE PERFORMANCE IN MASSACHUSETTS

MHQP helps consumers learn about the delivery of quality healthcare in Massachusetts with two types of healthcare quality reports:



**Clinical Quality Report.** This report looks at how patients are treated for the types of illnesses or health conditions (for example, diabetes care or depression management) in their doctor's office's medical group.



**Patient Experiences Survey Report.** This report is based on a survey taken by patients across Massachusetts, and looks at how patients assess all (not just one) of the doctors working in the same office.

- Assess clinical quality in primary care
  - Comparison to state and national benchmarks for preventive care and chronic disease care
- Patient Experience Survey
  - Results on 7 quality of care measures from patient's point of view
  - "Would you recommend this doctor to friends?"

# HospitalCompare.hhs.gov

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services ▶ Sign In to MyMedicare.gov

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## Hospital Compare

Where do you want to find a hospital?

**Search Information**

**Location** - ZIP Code or City, State

e.g. 10009 or New York, NY

**Search type** [?]

General

Medical Conditions

Surgical Procedures

▶



**Hospital Spotlight**

Click on the new Patient Safety Tab during your hospital search to see new information **Hospital Acquired Conditions and Serious Complications and Deaths**.

In January, Medicare will report new measures for heart attack care and surgical care. Also, for the first time, we will be reporting information on central line infections from the **Centers for Disease Control's National Healthcare Safety Network**.

You can now visit **Medicare's Hospital Value Based Purchasing Program** page and learn more about future measures.

# HospitalCompare.hhs.gov

- Federal initiative
- Look up Hospital Acquired Conditions, Serious Complications and Deaths
- Includes outcome measures, patient experience ratings
- New – quality ratings for heart attack care, surgical care, and central line infections

# 6. Get Involved!

- Follow us online:
  - Blog: [blog.hcfama.org](http://blog.hcfama.org)
  - Facebook: [www.facebook.com/healthcareforall](http://www.facebook.com/healthcareforall)
  - Twitter: [www.twitter.com/hcfa](http://www.twitter.com/hcfa)
- Talk at lunch

