

Physician group joins 'innovators' under state's VBP program

The state Health Department said Tuesday it has approved a value-based payment agreement with Somos Independent Practice Association, the first physician-led IPA to be named an Innovator under Medicaid's Value-Based Payment Roadmap.

It will care for about 180,000 Medicaid members in its first year in contracts with seven Medicaid managed-care programs, the state said.

The road map program is part of the state's \$7.4 billion DSRIP Medicaid reform effort. It strives to align payments to providers by stressing quality of care over quantity and reducing avoidable hospital stays by 25% in five years.

Somos is the third IPA to be designated an Innovator. Montefiore ACO-IPA and NYU Langone IPA—both hospital-led practices—received the distinction earlier this year.

Innovators contract with managed-care organizations to improve the quality of care for a defined group of patients. As a result, they are eligible to receive a greater portion of the monthly payments made by Medicaid and share in both financial gains and risks.

The Somos-IPA consists of Corinthian, Excelsior and Eastern Chinese American Physicians, covering Bronx, Kings, Queens and New York counties, according to the Health Department. Somos' hospital partners for the Innovator network also include Montefiore Health System, St. Barnabas Hospital, Medisys Health System, NYU Langone Health and Wyckoff Heights Medical Center. —J.H.

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