March 5, 2015

PA PATIENTS FIRST: HEALTHY COMMUNITIES, QUALITY OUTCOMES

What do the Highmark/UPMC Consent Decrees mean for consumers?

Continuing Coverage/Continuity of Care

- All Highmark members in a "continuing course of treatment" with a UPMC provider can continue to receive care on an in-network basis at in-network rates through June 30, 2019.
    - The decision as to whether a Highmark member who has received care prior to January 1, 2015 can continue to receive care from a UPMC provider for an ongoing medical condition is made by the patient in consultation with his or her treating physician, whether independent or UPMC employed.
- If a UPMC provider is treating a Highmark member under the Continuity of Care provision, services from that provider undertaken at UPMC facilities are also considered to be in-network.

Treating Cancer Patients

- Highmark members have in-network access to all UPMC services, facilities, doctors, and joint ventures for oncology and related illnesses or complications resulting from cancer treatment.
    - This care includes, but is not limited to, endocrinology, orthopedics, and cardiology when a doctor determines that an individual should be treated at UPMC and the patient agrees.
- Highmark members who are cancer patients can work with their physicians to determine the best provider for treatment.

Protecting Our Most Vulnerable

- Seniors who are 65 or older who are eligible or covered by Medicare; Medigap; or a Highmark Medicare Advantage plan, except Community Blue Medicare HMO, will have access to UPMC providers on an in-network basis.
- Other vulnerable populations covered under Medicaid and CHIP will also continue to have access to UPMC providers on an in-network basis.

Strengthening the Safety Net

- Highmark members who received in-network care from UPMC in 2014 and are unable to find alternative providers in their area may receive in-network care from the same providers in 2015.

If you have questions about the consent decrees or need assistance with filing a complaint, please contact the Pennsylvania Insurance Department at 1-877-881-6388 or www.insurance @pa.gov.