

MEMORANDUM

DATE: 28th January 2019

TO: Dawn Zuill (Atlantic Care Giving), Lynne Woolridge (Bermuda Cancer and Health), Dr. Lynette Thomas (Bermuda Life Center), Chris Bingham (Bermuda Healthcare Services), Sue Reilly (Bermuda Diabetes Association), Dr. Arlene Basden (Bermuda Specialties Group), Dr. Ewart Brown (Brown Darrell), Dr. Annabel Fountain (Fountain Health), Hannah Jones (Island Nutrition), Irena Ashton (Bermuda Home Dialysis), Colleen English De Grilla (PALS), Denika and Jerome Reid (Sonoview), Alaire Godfrey (Ultimate Imaging), Dr. Michael Czerwinski (Island Urology Services), Mary Jo Farrow (TLC Solutions), Dorothy Morgan-Swan (Home Healthcare)

FROM: Lynniece Warren , Programme Manager, Health Regulation

RE: Standard Health Benefit (SHB) Approved Provider Meeting held 17th January 2019

Attendees: Ricky Brathwaite, Chris Bingham, Ian Cameron, Colleen English-Degrilla, Mary-Jo Farrow, Alaire Godfrey, Hannah Jones, Hillary Rand, Jerome Reid, , Deion Smith, Loryn Soriano, Lynniece Warren, Lynne Woolridge

Apologies: Dawn Zuill, Lynette Thomas, Arlene Basden, Ewart Brown, Annabel Fountain, Michael Czerwinski

The following is a summary of the quarterly briefing between approved SHB providers and the Bermuda Health Council (Council) on 17th January 2019.

Purpose: The forum provided an opportunity to share updates about the health system, advise upcoming initiatives, and highlight best practices.

- 1. Health System Reform:** An overview of health system reforms were presented including:
 - a) Discussions with the Government to standardized health care data and coding,
 - b) Preparations for the Bermuda Hospitals Board (BHB) 2019 transition to ICD-10,
 - c) Creating an essential medicines list and regulating prescription medicine prices,
 - d) Extending SHB in the community to increase accessibility and fiscal space for more, and preventative and primary care.
- 2. Standard Premium Rate FY 2019:** The Standard Premium Rate (SPR) for FY 2019 had yet to be decided. Given the increased utilization and service costs over the previous fiscal year, the December 2018 proposed SPR amount was substantial. BHB's significant impact to the SPR was acknowledged and participants learned of alternate funding conversations that were underway to enable a more feasible SPR.
- 3. Quality Measures and Indicators:** Discussion around proposed quality measures and indicator submissions took place. Providers were informed that reporting to and/or receiving report from the General Practitioner (GP), timeliness of report to the GP and a patient survey developed by the Council were quality measures that were being considered. Indicators such

as full charge amount, professional ID numbers (issued by the Ministry of Health) and facility ID numbers (to be issued by the Health Council) on claims forms, outcomes, name of referring provider and others specific to the practice were put forth. Providers were advised that meetings before the 31st of January were needed to ensure agreements were finalized. These quality measures and indicators would be a requirement for SHB applications due July 2019.

Providers relayed the following:

- a) An electronic medical record required resources and IT systems so costs would impact its adoption'
 - b) Bundled services inclusive of services from different providers were offered for some benefits; consequently, it would likely be challenging to earmark each service with the professional who rendered care, and
 - c) Outcomes may be different among the SHB cohort since providers offer various types of services.
- 4. ICD-10 Transition:** Further to the October 2018 briefing, discussion on the Council's role in transitioning the medical community towards ICD-10-CM to align with other countries around the globe took place. Major players in the system were actively transitioning to ICD-10 or already using it for overseas transactions. It was requested that information for ordering the correct books and education be provided.
- 5. Any Other Business:** The Health Council's feature on Bermuda Broadcasting news was reported. Clarity was asked regarding a statement that compensation of services would be less if the island is to meet the Premier's health cost reduction announced at the PLP Delegate's meeting. The Council noted that the conversation expressed a need for all system stakeholders to participate in efficiencies to help reduce health expenditure.

The remaining 2019 meetings are scheduled for 18th April 2019, 18th July 2019 and 17th October 2019 from 8:30 – 9:30 am. Meeting invitations with the locations will be distributed in advance. The goal of the SHB programme is to increase access to quality care regardless of a person's ability to pay.