



Department of Medicaid

Mike DeWine, Governor
Jon Husted, Lt. Governor

Maureen M. Corcoran, Director

July 16, 2020

Subject: Episodes of Care Program Suspension for Calendar Year 2020 and 2021

Dear Ohio Medicaid Providers:

Since the arrival of COVID-19, the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) has taken a close look at how the coronavirus pandemic impacts our value-based purchasing programs. The onset of COVID-19 changed the way individuals seek care, reduced the delivery of preventive and less acute services, and delayed needed services for severe conditions.

One of the key elements of the Episodes of Care program is tying spend and quality performance, including the prevention of complications, to positive and negative incentive payments. Since the context of care and related claims submitted have changed dramatically, the design of this program no longer allows for accurate reporting and payments. As a result, **ODM will not conduct reporting or assess positive and negative incentive payments for the performance periods of calendar year 2020 and 2021.** Providers are still responsible for their performance in previous calendar years and may still see correspondence, payments, or collections related to their performance in calendar year 2018 and 2019.

The Episodes of Care program has been valuable to ODM and other payers in Ohio as we move away from fee-for-service payments that do not honor a population health view of the value of the care provided. The definitions of an apples-to-apples comparison of procedures has highlighted the variation in care across our state and has identified gaps in care that providers closed with variable success. In addition, this platform has allowed health systems to share best practices for safer and more coordinated care, which continues to be a goal after the impact of COVID-19 subsidies and utilization patterns stabilize.

ODM intends to restart episodes of care for calendar year 2022 and will take time in 2020 and 2021 to advance the goal of tying payment to quality by improving availability of actionable data to help clinicians make better decisions when caring for their patients. We will use our [episodes](#) webpage, episodes listserv, and managed care plans to communicate program updates. Providers can sign up for the episodes listserv at <https://medicaid.ohio.gov/PROVIDER/PaymentInnovation/Episodes>.

Thank you for your continued commitment to serving Ohioans.

Sincerely,

Maureen M. Corcoran, Director