

OBJECTIVE:

To ensure that Tuality Health Alliance (THA) members receive primary health care services from physicians that are adequately trained and supported by appropriate administrative systems.

THA has contracted under diverse payment methodologies and risk sharing arrangements. THA providers intend to respect these arrangements in the implementation of these criteria.

DEFINITION OF PRIMARY CARE SERVICE:

Primary care has been defined as comprehensive, continuous, first contact care which focuses on preventive strategies and care of common conditions. The following represent the general categories of services that are reasonable to expect a primary care physician to provide. A specialist practicing primary care services is expected to provide the same services. While variability will exist in the individual competencies and interest of each primary care physician, managed care plans and patients should expect that the primary care provider can offer the full scope of these services.

POLICY:

- I. Primary Care Provider (PCP) must provide 24-hour access to care. PCP must participate in an after-hours call system which insures that providers adequately trained in primary care are available to our members at all times.
- II. PCPs must agree to abide by THA's "access standards" as currently stated or amended in the future.
- III. PCPs must be willing to participate in the financial and contractual arrangements of the primary medical group or health system to which the member is assigned.
- IV. PCPs must agree to follow the administrative processes of THA (such as patient assignment, specialty referral processes and process regarding the discharge of a patient from PCP practice).

- V. Providers who wish to be PCPs must be able to fulfill the requirements for their scope of practice and training.
- VI. Offices must be properly equipped and supplied to provide these services and to meet other requirements for medical records and office access established and evaluated by the THA Credentialing program.
- VII. THA may develop and implement additional responsibilities as long as these apply to all other PCPs in their system and/or other specialists who function as PCPs.
- VIII. It should be evident the applicant can meet the preponderance of the following criteria, and that he or she is regularly practicing in these areas of medicine. They should demonstrate competency in applicable areas of hospital care.
- ❖ **Allergy and Asthma** - diagnosis and treatment of acute and chronic allergies and asthma. Peak flow monitoring.
 - ❖ **Dermatology** - diagnosis and treatment of common skin lesions (e.g. skin eruptions, warts, keratoses). Skin biopsy and excision as appropriate.
 - ❖ **Endocrinology** - diabetes mellitus: diet, oral medication or insulin controlled. Thyroid dysfunction.
 - ❖ **Gastroenterology** - peptic ulcer disease, gastroesophageal reflux, irritable bowel syndrome, differential diagnosis of the acute abdomen, including gynecological disorders, hemorrhoids, hepatitis and cirrhosis.
 - ❖ **Gynecology** - diagnosis and treatment of menstrual and menopausal disorders, diagnosis of abnormal vaginal bleeding, diagnosis of pregnancy, diagnosis of sexually transmitted disease, family planning, routine pelvic examinations with pap smears
 - ❖ **Hematology** - differential diagnosis of anemias, hemoglobinopathies
 - ❖ **Infectious Disease** - diagnosis and treatment of common infectious diseases, testing and initial evaluation of HIV positive patients, tuberculosis prophylaxis, diagnosis and treatment of viral disorders
 - ❖ **Neurology** - headaches, migraine and muscle tension, seizure disorders, stable and controlled
 - ❖ **Ophthalmology** - corneal abrasions, conjunctivitis, sty, visual acuity

- ❖ **Orthopedics, Non-operative** - strains, sprains, tendinitis, bursitis, splinting of sprains, simple fractures, initial evaluation and treatment of low back pain
- ❖ **Psychosocial** - psychiatric assessment and initial intervention, recognition and initial management of drug and alcohol dependence
- ❖ **Pulmonology and Otolaryngology** - diagnosis and treatment of acute upper and lower respiratory conditions, diagnosis and treatment of chronic upper and lower respiratory conditions, otitis media, tonsillitis
- ❖ **Rheumatology** - initial evaluation of Musculoskeletal disorders
- ❖ **Surgery, Basic** - basic wound management, incision and drainage of cysts and abscesses
- ❖ **Urinary** - urinary tract infections, kidney stones
- ❖ **Vascular Disease** - uncomplicated hypertension, hyperlipidemia, stable angina, EKG interpretation, peripheral vascular disease; venous and arterial insufficiencies.

EDUCATION CRITERIA:

Board Certification or Board eligible (within four years of the date the applicant completed the Residency program) in field of Family Practice, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, or Obstetrics/Gynecology.

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THA Plan Director

THA Medical Director