



MASSACHUSETTS

Michael T. Caljouw
Vice President
State Government & Regulatory Affairs

October 27, 2015

Secretary Kristen Lepore
Massachusetts Executive Office for Administration and Finance
State House, Room 373
Boston, MA 02133

Re: Regulatory Review Process – Health care reporting

Dear Secretary Lepore:

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Massachusetts (BCBSMA) strongly supports Governor Baker's focused commitment to administrative simplification and the reduction of duplicative or burdensome regulations and reporting. The Governor's Executive Order 562 is particularly timely since real action is needed now to stem the tide of regulatory burden when it does not have value for consumers.

The last full regulatory review occurred in 1996 under then-Governor Weld (Executive Order 386). In the intervening twenty years, Massachusetts health care has changed immensely. We have passed and then implemented both Massachusetts and national health care reform, as well as three complex, substantive state laws (Chapters 305 of the Acts of 2008, 288 of the Acts of 2010 and 224 of the Acts of 2012). Massachusetts should be justly proud of our collective successes from these laws. Regrettably, however, these changes have also inadvertently resulted in the additional layering of duplicative reports or administrative responsibilities without corresponding correction.

In 1996, the Division of Insurance was the primary Massachusetts health care regulator with the vast majority of reports and data flowing into their very critical role. In 2015, there are a host of new state agencies that previously did not exist and health plans must make a series of additional data filings, including to the Center for Health Information and Analysis, the Health Connector, the Health Policy Commission and a host of others. While BCBSMA recognizes the appropriateness of these agencies to collect this information, what has been missing - until this effort - is any sense of a focused, administration-wide approach (led at the Secretariat level) at ascertaining the end-user value of such reporting and the elimination of duplicative reports when the data can be accessed elsewhere.

Previous well-intentioned efforts have simply not borne fruit. As one example, the Division of Insurance and Center for Health Information and Analysis (CHIA) have worked diligently on meeting with health plans to increase administrative simplification through the All Payer Claims Database (APCD). We applaud this work. However, while welcome, these meetings have been underway for over two years with no reduction in current reporting. Concrete results will only come with deadline-specific attention; similar efforts involving other agencies and data filings will be equally needed.

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Fortunately, the FY2016 Budget created a CHIA Oversight Council on which the Commissioner of Insurance, the Health Policy Commission, and the Secretaries of Health and Human Services and Administration and Finance sit. This Oversight Council should be a critical inter-agency communicative tool for the proper functioning of health care agencies with an action plan to root out unnecessary administrative burden. Specifically, this Council should be leveraged for two concrete benefits:

- (1) Coordination should engage all "health care agencies" on all **future agency requests** to ensure that already-existing data reports do not already exist on the topic (via pre-request vetting with other agencies).
- (2) Also, this Council should fully catalogue – with the assistance of stakeholders – for the first time the wide breadth of health data already provided to all other government sources (like the APCD) and craft **regulatory changes** consistent with them with the goal of lessening regulatory burdens without detriment to any stakeholders.

BCBSMA looks forward to results ensuring that quality, affordable healthcare is paramount and that administrative work without value is eliminated.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,



Michael T. Caljouw

Cc: Lauren Peters, Director, Health Care Policy and Legislative Affairs, ANF
Lisa Dixon, Special Counsel for Regulatory Reform, ANF
HHS Assistant Secretary Alice Moore
Commissioner of Insurance Daniel Judson
HPC Executive Director David Seltz
CHIA Executive Director Aron Boros
Deputy Commissioner Kevin Beagan