

**MEETING MINUTES:  
MARKET OVERSIGHT AND TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE**

**Meeting of May 11, 2022**

**MASSACHUSETTS HEALTH POLICY COMMISSION**

Market Oversight and Transparency Committee  
Health Policy Commission  
50 Milk Street, 8th Floor  
Boston, MA

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Docket: Wednesday, May 11, 2022, 9:30 AM

### **PROCEEDINGS**

The Massachusetts Health Policy Commission's (HPC) Market Oversight and Transparency (MOAT) Committee held a virtual meeting on Wednesday, May 11, 2022, at 9:30 AM.

Members attending remotely included Dr. David Cutler (Chair); Ms. Patricia Houpt; Mr. Ron Mastrogiovanni; Mr. Timothy Foley; and Ms. Cassandra Roeder, designee for Secretary of Administration and Finance Michael Heffernan.

Dr. Stuart Altman (HPC Chair), Dr. Donald Berwick, and Mr. Martin Cohen were also in attendance virtually.

The meeting notice and agenda can be found [here](#).

The presentation from the meeting can be found [here](#).

A video of the meeting can be seen [here](#).

### **ITEM 1: Approval Of Minutes From The February 9, 2022, MEETING**

Dr. Cutler called for a motion to approve the minutes from the February 9, 2022, meeting. Ms. Houpt motioned to approve the minutes. Mr. Mastrogiovanni seconded the motion. The vote was taken by roll call. The minutes were approved with four votes in the affirmative.

Dr. Cutler turned the presentation over to Mr. David Seltz, Executive Director, who provided a brief introduction to the meeting.

### **ITEM 2: Urgent Care Utilization In Massachusetts**

Mr. Seltz turned the presentation over to Sara Sadownik, Deputy Director, Research and Cost Trends, who gave an overview of the new DataPoints issue on urgent care utilization in Massachusetts. For more information, see slides 6-26. The portion of the meeting on the *Urgent Care Utilization DataPoints* can be viewed [here](#).

Mr. Cohen asked if CVS has put any of its retail clinics in low-income neighborhoods, specifically in Boston, Springfield, and Worcester. Ms. Sadownik noted that nothing has changed since 2018 in terms of retail clinic locations. Mr. Cohen also asked if the HPC has data where patients are presenting at urgent care centers and are then referred to the emergency department. Ms. Sadownik said that they do not have that information.

Ms. Houpt mentioned the surprise billing legislation and noted that the employer purchasers that she works with have told their employees that if they can, they should go to the urgent care and retail clinics instead of the emergency department. Ms. Houpt said that the HPC should recommend full disclosure from the urgent care centers in terms of cost to patients. Mr. Seltz followed up to note that there is a real policy opportunity for standardization and transparency and said that Governor Baker's health care reform proposal would create standard licensure for all urgent care centers as clinics. Dr. Cutler

suggested that the HPC send an informal letter to communicate with the legislature and administration about the topic.

Dr. Berwick asked if Ms. Sadownik had a chance to review literature on quality of care. Ms. Sadownik said that the overall work did not focus on quality of care and said the team would examine the issue further for its DataPoints series. Mr. Foley asked if there was a pattern of growth in for-profit ownership of urgent care and retail clinics. Ms. Sadownik said that large chains are mostly for-profit models. Dr. Cutler asked Mr. Seltz what the process is for the HPC to submit a formal view on the topic. Ms. Blakeney asked if there was a way to know if patients serviced at the urgent care center were then seen at a hospital within a certain time. Ms. Sadownik said that it would be something to consider for additional DataPoints issues but there are technical challenges to reading and receiving that data.

Mr. Seltz answered Dr. Cutler's question about formally addressing these topics and said that there were a few opportunities, including publishing a DataPoints with the research presented and highlighting the policy opportunity. Mr. Seltz also noted that the legislature has been interested in this topic over the past few years and that the upcoming cost trends report offers an opportunity to present recommendations.

### **ITEM 3: Impact of COVID-19 on Ambulatory Care**

Mr. Seltz provided an introduction to the presentation on the Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Ambulatory Care in Massachusetts. Mr. Seltz then turned the presentation over to Dr. Laura Nasuti, Associate Director, Research and Analytics, Dr. Sasha Albert, Senior Researcher, Research and Cost Trends, and Mr. Lyden Marcellot, Manager, Research and Cost Trends, who gave a preview of the findings from the upcoming cost trends report. For more information, see slides 27-48. The portion of the meeting on the DataPoints issue can be viewed [here](#).

Dr. Cutler said telehealth policy will be important in the future and that during the pandemic, the Commonwealth did an extremely good job regarding making up telehealth visits for in-person visits, specifically on behavioral health care and not a great job making up in-person services that couldn't be done via telehealth or rescheduled, like colonoscopies. Dr. Nasuti noted that telehealth will be examined further in the cost trends report.

Dr. Altman asked if there was any sense as to what happened in 2021 and if things came back or stayed similar to 2020. Dr. Nasuti said for ambulatory care, office-based or hospital outpatient care, the HPC doesn't have insight. Dr. Nasuti did say that the HPC presented earlier on emergency department utilization and there was hospital inpatient data indicating a return to 2019.

### **Item 4: Guest Speaker Brady Post**

Dr. Cutler turned the meeting over to Ms. Blakeney to introduce guest speaker Dr. Brady Post. For more information, see [here](#). The portion of the meeting on the *Children with Medical Complexity Report* can be viewed [here](#).

### **ITEM 5: Adjournment**

With the introduction of the guest speaker, the Market Oversight and Transparency meeting concluded.