

**To:** AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana Maternity Care Providers

**Date:** April 6, 2023

**Subject:** AmeriHealth Caritas “Connecting Our Members to Premier Ancillary Services & Specialists” (COMPASS) Program Expanding to Referring Maternity Care Providers

**Summary:** Beginning **June 1, 2023**, AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana will expand AmeriHealth Caritas COMPASS<sup>SM</sup> to include referring maternity care providers. AmeriHealth Caritas COMPASS is a referral optimization initiative that gives referring providers information about specialists’ performance as measured by established and objective quality and efficiency performance measures. AmeriHealth Caritas COMPASS currently assesses the performance of specialist providers; ancillary service providers will be included in a later phase.

At AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana, our mission is to help people get care, stay well, and build healthy communities. To help achieve that mission, we are committed to providing members access to effective, efficient, and quality services. The AmeriHealth Caritas COMPASS program is designed to support that objective.

This program, which is voluntary for referring providers and specialists, strives to increase member access to high-performing specialists by:

1. Twice per year, calculating the quality and efficiency of specialists’ performance based upon established and objective quality and efficiency performance measures,
2. Using that information to rank specialists in our provider network by a defined set of episode categories,
3. Assigning an AmeriHealth Caritas COMPASS score to in-network specialist providers who meet the minimum number of episodes to participate in the program based on their ranked performance against their peers and,
4. Sharing the AmeriHealth Caritas COMPASS scores of providers who are participating in the program with PCPs and referring maternity care providers (and specialists) in the form of an AmeriHealth Caritas COMPASS Referral Guide for each episode category, broken down by provider specialty and hospital referral region (HRR).

### **What are AmeriHealth Caritas COMPASS episode categories?**

The episode categories used in the AmeriHealth Caritas COMPASS program have condition-specific definitions that group the entire range of care used to treat a clinical condition for a specific time period across the continuum of care. The episode categories are defined by PROMETHEUS Analytics® and are used across the health care sector. Episode category descriptions are included in the AmeriHealth Caritas COMPASS Program Guide.

## **What are AmeriHealth Caritas COMPASS episodes?**

An AmeriHealth Caritas COMPASS episode is a measurement of a single occurrence that meets the criteria of an episode category (e.g., an asthma episode includes services occurring 30 days prior to the date of the trigger service and lasts until the end of the study period, or until the patient's date of death).

## **What episode categories have been implemented?**

AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana launched the AmeriHealth Caritas COMPASS program in August 2021 for the following episode categories:

- Bipolar Disorder
- Depression & Anxiety
- Pregnancy
- Schizophrenia
- Substance Use Disorder
- Trauma & Stressors Disorders

Beginning **June 1, 2023**, the following episode categories will be added to the program:

- Allergic Rhinitis/Chronic Sinusitis
- Diabetes
- Hypertension
- Low Back Pain
- Upper GI Endoscopy

The publication of AmeriHealth Caritas COMPASS scores is limited to the program participating specialists providing care that meets the criteria within the aforementioned set of episode categories for each of the bi-annual reporting periods.

## **How are AmeriHealth Caritas COMPASS scores calculated?**

In-network specialty providers are scored based on their ranked performance against peers meeting the episode category criteria within an HRR. HRRs are geographic delineations that use zip code area groupings to define unique healthcare market regions. Provider scores are updated twice annually in the AmeriHealth Caritas COMPASS Referral Guide for program participating providers.

AmeriHealth Caritas COMPASS scores are calculated utilizing established and objective quality and efficiency performance measures through the following steps:

1. Attribute episodes to individual specialist providers based on episode category criteria. To qualify for program participation, individual specialist providers must be attributed to five or more episodes within a 1-year reporting period for chronic episode categories and a 2-year reporting period for procedural episode categories.
2. Calculate episode case rates.
3. Apply episode-specific risk adjustment.

4. Evaluate quality performance and efficiency performance.
5. Rank provider performance against like peers within the specialist's HRR.
6. Calculate AmeriHealth Caritas COMPASS scores.
7. Publish AmeriHealth Caritas COMPASS scores for providers who are participating in the program.

### **How is the AmeriHealth Caritas COMPASS Referral Guide used?**

The AmeriHealth Caritas COMPASS Referral Guide is a resource for referring providers who would like to access additional information to make informed referrals for their patients. The Referral Guide is updated twice annually and is available to PCPs, referring maternity care providers, and specialists via our secure provider portal, [NaviNet](#). You can access the AmeriHealth Caritas COMPASS Referral Guide from the NaviNet landing page.

The Referral Guide is organized by episode category, provider specialty, and HRR. Providers with performance above the network average, as compared to peers, and who are participating in the program are indicated by an AmeriHealth Caritas COMPASS score of two and a half or more in the Referral Guide. Program-participating specialty providers with scores lower than two and a half are listed in the Referral Guide in alphabetical order but do not have a score indicated. Specialist providers who do not meet the minimum number of attributed episodes for the episode category associated with their specialty, or who are part of an entity (tax ID) that has opted out of the program are not listed in the AmeriHealth Caritas COMPASS Referral Guide.

Although you will have access to the Referral Guide to aid in making referrals, you are not required to utilize the Referral Guide in your referral process.

Referrals made on the basis of the information presented in the AmeriHealth Caritas COMPASS Referral Guide should not affect a member's ability to choose who they see for in-network specialty care. Members have the right to decide the specialist from whom they ultimately receive care.

### **Can a specialist provider opt out of this program?**

Entities may opt out of the AmeriHealth Caritas COMPASS program at the tax ID level; individual specialists within an entity may not opt out individually.

Once an entity has opted out, the specialist providers affiliated with the entity's tax ID will not be included in AmeriHealth Caritas COMPASS Referral Guides unless a formal request is made by the entity to participate.

For detailed information about the AmeriHealth Caritas COMPASS program (including a complete list of episode category descriptions and the specialist opt-out process), please refer to the AmeriHealth Caritas COMPASS Program Guide on our website at [www.amerihealthcaritasla.com/provider/resources](http://www.amerihealthcaritasla.com/provider/resources).

**Questions:** Thank you for your continued support and commitment to the care of our members. If you have questions about this communication, please contact AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana Provider Services at 1-888-922-0007 or your [Provider Network Management Account Executive](#).

### **Missed an alert?**

You can find a complete listing of provider alerts on the [Provider Newsletters and Updates](#) page of our website.