

PROVIDERALERT



To: AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana Providers

Date: April 30, 2021

Subject: Primary Care First Model

Summary: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is recruiting Primary Care Practitioners to participate in its Primary Care First (PCF) Model Program.

AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana has been chosen by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to participate in Primary Care First (PCF), CMS' nationwide primary care payment redesign initiative. AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana is one of only three Louisiana health plans (including Medicaid, Medicare, and commercial) selected to join the state's Department of Health in this program.

Regarding the program, CMS has announced that the Comprehensive Primary Care (CPC+) Model will end on December 31, 2021 for all model participants, regardless of start date. The model was previously scheduled to end on December 31, 2021 for participants who joined in 2017 and on December 31, 2022 for participants who joined in 2018. Formal notification of this action will occur in the coming weeks.

CMS has indicated they remain committed to preserving and strengthening primary care, which is central to a high-functioning healthcare system. Impacted practices and payers in the four regions that started in 2018 can apply for Cohort 2 of PCF Model. PCF builds on the underlying principles of CPC+ and serves as an opportunity for practices to assume greater independence, prioritize the clinician-patient relationship, and increase revenue through performance-based payments.

To accommodate impacted CPC+ participants and in an effort to be responsive to the needs of stakeholders, **the deadline for PCF practice applications has been extended to May 21, 2021** and **the deadline for payer applications has been extended to June 18, 2021**. Additional information about the Primary Care First Model, including the Request for Applications and application portal, can be found on the [CMS Primary Care First webpage](#).

CMS is also announcing two additional Office Hour events for potential practice and payer applicants to ask questions ahead of the PCF application deadline:

**Primary Care First: Payer Office Hour
Wednesday, May 12 at 2:00PM ET**

The PCF Model team will review and answers your questions about the benefits of being a payer partner, the solicitation process and rubric, alignment principles, and more. You may also access resources from the [Become a PCF Payer Partner Webinar](#).

Register to attend here:

https://deloitte.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_3sjVd6q2QF6HXQgYy-Gpiw [deloitte.zoom.us]

Primary Care First: Practice Office Hour

Wednesday, May 5 at 2:00PM ET

The PCF Model Team will be available to answer your questions on key topics including eligibility, payment design and attribution, and more. You may also refer to the materials from the two PCF webinars held in March: [Introduction to PCF](#) and [Ready, Set, Apply](#).

Register to attend here:

https://deloitte.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_GtSlSdNfSaWn9RKcESs2_w [deloitte.zoom.us]

If you are not currently participating in PCF, you are highly encouraged to apply for participation in 2022. Additional information about PCF, including the Request for Applications and application portal, can be found on the [CMS Primary Care First webpage](#). If you have any questions or need assistance completing your application please contact PCF Support at 1-833-226-7278 or PrimaryCareApply@telligen.com.

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

Where can I find more information on COVID-19?

AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana has updated its website to streamline communications and important notifications about COVID-19. Please visit <http://amerihealthcaritasla.com/covid-19> for up-to-date information for both providers and members, including frequently asked questions, and important provider alerts from AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana and the Louisiana Department of Health.