

PLANK 2 - ALIGNING INCENTIVES FOR PROVIDERS

RESOLUTION 2.01:

PROMOTE HEALTH CARE VALUE THROUGH ROBUST, TRANSPARENT DATA

All participants in the health care delivery and payment system - providers, employer purchasers, government purchasers and payers, commercial payers and consumers - need robust data on cost and quality in order to make purchasing, contracting and care decisions that will lead to the best outcomes and highest-value care.

At the federal level, we believe that raw Medicare data should be available to employer organizations like The Alliance so that we can use it to supplement other data when evaluating health care providers.

At the state level, health care data collection and sharing, whether related to Medicaid, state employees or health care providers as a whole, should be consistent. States should expand or modify their efforts to collect and make publicly available data on health care cost and quality with an eye toward what is relevant to purchasers and consumers. The timing, specific measures and format of publicly available data should be designed with the input of employer purchasers and consumers. While The Alliance is generally supportive of voluntary efforts to improve health care value, voluntary quality and cost reporting frameworks often leave gaps in information that make the data much less actionable. Where complete, actionable data cannot be gathered through voluntary reporting, policymakers may need to consider reporting mandates.

Wisconsin has advanced farther than Illinois in making information available to help providers understand performance and to help purchasers make informed decisions. The State of Wisconsin collects a set of data through a private contract with the Wisconsin Hospital Association Information Center (WHAIC) that The Alliance uses in its quality-reporting initiatives. However, the data set has some limitations, especially regarding analyzing avoidable complications. Some Wisconsin Health Information Organization (WHIO) data is also now available to consumers through MyHealthWI.org, but this resource would be made more comprehensive through the addition of more complete data on cost and quality.

The Alliance resolves to work with all of our government partners so that timely, actionable information on health care quality and cost is collected and shared for the benefit and use of all health care system participants. Federal and state governments should move forward to make robust health care data available so that purchasers, providers, payers and consumers can work together to promote higher value care.