



February 23, 2012

Peter V. Lee
Executive Director
California Health Benefit Exchange 1000 G Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Qualified Health Plan Management and Delivery Reform Planning

Mr. Lee,

The National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) appreciates the opportunity to respond to the presentations and Board discussion on February 21st regarding qualified health plan (QHP) criteria and the role the exchange can play in improving the value of health care delivery. As part of the Panel 1 discussion on the background of California's health plan landscape, we thought it would be helpful to note that a large number of California plans that provide commercial and/or Medicaid products are NCQA accredited (see attached).

NCQA accreditation is required for plans that participate in the CalPERS program and by a number of California's major employers. NCQA's credentialing standards are deemed by the Department of Health Care Services for the Medi-Cal Managed Care Division plan oversight process. In addition, the state has a long history of voluntary reporting of HEDIS and CAHPS performance information via the Office of the Patient Advocate Report Card. Since 2001 NCQA has worked with California's plans, providers and state and federal regulators to promote streamlined oversight on a variety of projects. We encourage the California Health Benefit Exchange to build on the history of streamlining efforts as it assesses the best approach to certifying plans.

NCQA is finalizing recommendations for how states can meet the accreditation requirement for plan qualification. Our approach takes into consideration the timelines for plans becoming accredited in time for participation in the Exchange as well as the complex issues related to collecting and reporting clinical and patient experience data for this new population. We will make these recommendations available shortly.

We appreciate the opportunity to share our comments and look forward to supporting the work of the CA HBEX in whatever way we can as it advocates for quality, value, accountability and transparency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kristine Toppe". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kristine Toppe
Director, State Affairs

NCQA Health Plan Report Card: California Results – February 21, 2012

Plan Name	Product Line	Product	Accreditation Status
COMMERCIAL			
Aetna Health of California, Inc. Aetna Choice POS, Aetna Health Network Only, Aetna Health Network Option, Aetna HMO, Aetna Open Access HMO, Aetna Quality Point of Service (QPOS), Aetna Value Network HMO	Commercial	HMO/POS Combined	Commendable
Aetna Life Insurance Company (California) Aetna Choice POSII®, Aetna Elect Choice® (EPO), Aetna Managed Choice®, Aetna Open Choice® PPO, Aetna SelectSM, Open Access® Aetna Elect Choice®, Open Access® Aetna SelectSM, Open Access® Managed Choice®	Commercial	PPO	Commendable
Anthem Blue Cross Life and Health Insurance Company Lumenos (CDHP), Power Care Advocate, Power HealthFund, Power Select, PPO, PPO Basic, PPO Saver, PPO Share Plans, PPO SmartSense, Prudent Buyer, RightPlan PPO, Tonik	Commercial	PPO	Commendable
Blue Cross of California dba Anthem Blue Cross Advantage HMO, Blue Cross HMO, Blue Cross Plus, Blue Cross HMO Plus, Blue Cross POS, CaliforniaCare, CaliforniaCare Plus, HMO Saver, Individual HMO, Select HMO	Commercial	HMO/POS Combined	Commendable
Blue Cross of California dba Anthem Blue Cross Lumenos (CDHP), Power Select, PPO Basic, PPO Saver, PPO Smart Sense, Prudent Buyer, Tonik	Commercial	PPO	Commendable
Blue Shield of California Access+ Baja HMO, Access+ HMO, Added Advantage POS, Core Flex HMO HFP HMO MRMIP HMO, HMO SaveNet / Local Access+ HMO, NetValue HMO	Commercial	HMO/POS Combined	Excellent
CIGNA Health and Life Insurance Company - California	Commercial	PPO	Commendable
CIGNA HealthCare of California, Inc. HMO, HMO Open Access, HMO POS, HMO POS Open Access, Network, Network Open Access, Network POS, Network POS Open Access	Commercial	HMO/POS Combined	Excellent
Connecticut General Life Insurance Company - California CIGNA OAP, CIGNA PPO	Commercial	PPO	Commendable
Health Net Life Insurance Company Health Net PPO, Health Net PPO First Advantage, Health Net PPO HRA, Health Net PPO HSA Compatible PPO, Health Net PPO HSA EZ Access, Salud con Health Net PPO, Salud con Health Net PPO Plus	Commercial	PPO	Commendable
Health Net of California, Inc. Health Net Elect, Health Net Elect Open Access, Health Net Elect Open Access Silver, Health Net HMO Bronze Network, Health Net HMO of California, Health Net HMO Silver Network, Health Net Salud HMO Plus, Health Net Salud HMO y mas, Health Net Salud Mexico, Health Net Select, Health Net Small Business Group HMO, Health Net Variable Hospital HMO Copay, Salud con Health Net HMO Plus of California	Commercial	HMO/POS Combined	Commendable
Kaiser Foundation Health Plan Inc. - Southern California Kaiser Permanente (Commercial)	Commercial	HMO	Excellent

Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc. - Northern California Kaiser Foundation Health Plan - N. CA	Commercial	HMO	Excellent
UHC of California (dba) UnitedHealthcare of California PacifiCare POS, PacifiCare Signature Value Advantage, PacifiCare Signature Value HMO	Commercial	HMO/POS Combined	Commendable
UnitedHealthcare Insurance Company (California) Choice, Choice Plus, Options PPO, Select, Select Plus	Commercial	PPO	Excellent
Western Health Advantage	Commercial	HMO	Excellent
MEDICAID			
Anthem Blue Cross of California Partnership Plan Blue Cross of California Partnership Plan	Medicaid	HMO	Accredited
Care1st Health Plan	Medicaid	HMO	Commendable
Community Health Group Healthy Families, Medi-Cal	Medicaid	HMO	Commendable
Health Net of California, Inc.	Medicaid	HMO	Commendable
Inland Empire Health Plan Healthy Families, Medi-Cal	Medicaid	HMO	Commendable
Local Initiative Health Authority, dba L.A. Care Health Plan Healthy Families, Healthy Kids, Medi-Cal	Medicaid	HMO	Commendable
Molina Healthcare of California Partner Plan, Inc. Molina Healthcare of California	Medicaid	HMO	Accredited
Orange County Health Authority - dba CalOptima CalOptima	Medicaid	HMO	Scheduled