



A Pediatric Clinically Integrated Network

Independent pediatricians face a range of challenges in today's rapidly changing health care environment causing fragmentation of care. Accountable Care Organizations, minute clinics and adult practitioners are expanding into pediatrics and the marketplace is consolidating. Children's Healthcare of Atlanta has responded to these pressures by working with independent pediatricians to form The Children's Care Network, a physician-led clinically integrated network. Representing a broad cross-section of primary care pediatricians and pediatric specialists, the network will work with the Children's system to strengthen pediatrics in Georgia.

At the core of the network is a commitment to the belief that children receive the highest level of care from pediatricians and pediatric hospitals. Preserving the quality of care provided to our patients is the driving force behind the creation of the network.

The Children's Care Network will develop and implement evidence-based, quality and clinical improvements to: improve outcomes; increase efficiency; and reduce costs in the inpatient and outpatient setting. Once clinically integrated, participants will be able to negotiate managed care contracts that reflect the value and expertise of the care they deliver.

WHAT IS A CLINICALLY INTEGRATED NETWORK?

A clinically integrated network is a collaboration between a hospital system and independent providers to improve patient outcomes at a community level. Children's and community providers are creating a clinically integrated network to help strengthen free-standing pediatrics in the new health care environment.

WHY DID CHILDREN'S AND COMMUNITY PROVIDERS DECIDE TO CREATE A CLINICALLY INTEGRATED NETWORK?

For an independent pediatric community to remain strong, both Children's and independent practices need to remain viable. Children's and many of its community-based colleagues want to avoid care fragmentation for our kids. Physicians who focus on kids, in collaboration with a hospital system that focuses only on kids, produce better pediatric outcomes. The network will assess the needs of the community for both providers and patients and work to meet those needs through the creation of programs and service offerings.

WHO IS IN THE NETWORK?

The physician-led clinically integrated network will include a wide spectrum of pediatricians—primary care and specialists—in the Atlanta area. The network is a separately incorporated subsidiary of Children's, led by a community physician-driven board of directors. Initial funding was provided by Children's.

WHY SHOULD MY PRACTICE JOIN THE NETWORK?

The network was established to enhance the quality of care for our kids. It also offers independent physicians strategic benefits in several areas: access to Children's nationally recognized resources and expertise; the opportunity to negotiate for performance value; and information technology support to facilitate efficient data sharing. Once the network achieves efficiencies through clinical integration, its members may jointly negotiate with payors together with Children's. Finally, the network is currently planning to secure additional cost savings for its members through group purchasing power for items such as vaccines, group health insurance and medical malpractice coverage.

OTHER BENEFITS:



NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED PEDIATRIC EXPERTISE

Network members will benefit from association with Children's widely recognized specialists and resources. Consistently rated one of the best children's hospitals in the country, Children's also is the largest and most trusted pediatric health care system in the state.



NEGOTIATING FOR PERFORMANCE VALUE

By demonstrating that the network can work together in an integrated fashion to improve health outcomes and lower costs, Children's and the member physicians will be able to negotiate managed care contracts that recognize the added value the network will offer in quality improvements and increased efficiency of care.



COST SAVINGS

In the future, practices may benefit from savings achieved through participating in the network's group purchasing arrangements for costly items like vaccines, medical malpractice coverage, and group health insurance coverage.



TECH SUPPORT

Children's has purchased a population health management tool that will be used to support the implementation of quality metrics and to analyze results to enhance care management. The tool is designed to integrate with practice management systems and with most electronic medical record systems, and will allow for targeted data sharing and communications in compliance with HIPAA regulations.