



To: Independent Physicians/Providers and Practice Leaders

Fr: Dr. Khan Nedd, Answer Health CEO

Re: **Update/Progress Report on Answer Health**

Da: May 13, 2016

As you are aware, Answer Health (AH) is a newly formed Clinically Integrated Organization, created to represent the unique interests of independent physicians and providers. AH was formed in 2015 to: enhance quality of care and the health of our community; deliver appropriate patient care (i.e., right time, right place) and reduce costs; and increase patient and provider engagement and satisfaction. At the same time, AH will strengthen and preserve independent practice as an alternative to system-driven care.

Substantial work continues through the AH quality and information technology committees. We have 30 evidence-based clinical pathways approved or in process. We have a signed agreement with Great Lakes Health connect for HIE functionality, a draft technology policy, and issued a request for information to EMR vendors. In addition, more than 50 providers have been added to our all-payer registry. We have held initial meetings with payers to discuss AH initiatives and goals for contracting with receptivity to expanding our existing partnerships, and we continue to define opportunities with several clinical and business partners.

This ongoing work culminated in the formal launch of the AH sign-up process and our second annual Town Hall meeting on March 29th. Feedback from meeting attendees was positive and over **150 providers have signed on with AH** to date. We continue to receive interest, questions, and additional agreements weekly.

If your practice has already signed up to participate in Answer Health, you will be receiving a welcome letter and information packet shortly. We will be scheduling meetings with these practices to discuss key initiatives and seek your input.

In addition, we will be reaching out to practices that have not signed up to discuss this opportunity, answer questions, and seek participation. This will include regional meetings with independent providers and individual meetings with practice leaders. If you would like to schedule a meeting with Answer Health, please contact our offices at 616-552-1483 or at info@answerhealth.com.

It is clear to AH physician leadership that the real promise of Answer Health will be realized only by independent practices working together to achieve our goals. At the network level, we will guide investments in clinical systems and staffing to support your practice, facilitate meetings to refine standards of care for participants, and provide performance data to identify improvement opportunities.

At the practice level, we will require a commitment to continuous improvement, integration of clinical data, and engagement with the AH support team to deliver high-value care and maximize performance-based reimbursement for participants.

We have great confidence in our ability to succeed together based on the agility and success demonstrated by the sponsoring physician organizations. We look forward to additional growth and success in the coming months.