



April 28, 2020

**UNC Health Alliance, Blue Cross NC Collaborate to Ease Burden on Practices During COVID-19 Pandemic**

*Blue Cross® and Blue Shield® of North Carolina working with UNC Health Alliance to advance performance bonuses to network primary care practices across the state as part of its Blue Premier<sup>SM</sup> program. Bonuses to be paid several months early to help practices which are struggling financially during the COVID-19 pandemic.*

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina (Blue Cross NC) is working with UNC Health Alliance, a clinically integrated network of collaborative healthcare providers across North Carolina, to help North Carolina healthcare providers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This will allow UNC Health Alliance to distribute a portion of its network's earned quality incentive dollars for the calendar year 2019, as part of UNC Health's participation in Blue Premier, a value-based care program Blue Cross NC introduced in 2019. Under this program, these dollars would typically be shared in the fall of 2020.

As part of the Blue Cross NC Blue Premier program, participating providers are incented based on performance related to health outcomes and reducing the cost of health care. The 2019 incentive was scheduled to occur in the fall of 2020. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has created significant financial hardship on many primary care practices, leading to very difficult decisions about reducing services and even furloughing staff. As a result, Blue Cross NC and UNC Health Alliance have collaborated to find ways to help. Distributing these funds early, as well as providing practices with guidance on virtual care and access to federal assistance, are just a few of the areas of support.

UNC Health Alliance is pleased to offer this assistance to its eligible practices. Keeping primary care practices viable and therefore maintaining patient's access to much needed care during this time of crisis, is critical to the health of our communities.

**Disclosures:**

UNC Health Care is an independent company that is solely responsible for the physicians and medical facilities it owns and operates. UNC Health Care does not offer Blue Cross or Blue Shield products or services.

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