



District of Columbia  
Primary Care Association

*Action And Innovation For Health Equity.*

*www.DCPCA.org*

To: Insurance Market Working Committee  
From: Patricia Quinn, Director of Policy and External Affairs, DC Primary Care Association (DCPCA)  
**RE: Draft Plan Certification Recommendations**  
Date: January 20, 2015

DCPCA works to ensure that all residents of Washington, DC have the ability and opportunity to lead healthier lives – through increased health insurance coverage, expanded access to care, and improved health care quality. Our key partners in this effort include community-based safety net primary care providers who are committed to our mission of creating a health care system that allows for everyone to be covered and everyone to be cared for.

DCPCA relies on the Health Benefits Exchange to provide timely and accurate information and access for District residents seeking health care insurance and health care providers. Residents must have confidence that carriers on the Exchange have a sufficient number and type of providers, including mental health, substance abuse, and essential community providers, to meet their health care needs. Because the District does not have a recent citywide health care needs assessment that includes behavioral health, DCPCA has particular interest in robust oversight of network adequacy. In partnership with the Department of Insurance Securities and Banking (DISB), HBX should devote considerable effort to assess network adequacy for all certified plans.

Accurate provider directories are another essential component to ensure that health insurance *coverage* will lead to improved health care *access*. Residents need up-to-date information about which providers are accepting new patients and which plans specific providers accept. We support HBX efforts to improve the accuracy of provider directories and link directories to the DC Health Link system. We urge the Committee to leverage its regulatory role to require a high level of accuracy in this key resource for District residents, and to consider alternatives to reporting of consumer complaints.

As an organization committed to best practices and high value in health care delivery, DCPCA supports transparency in access to health plan quality information. As the health care marketplace drives towards improved outcomes for patients, health plan quality measures should be accessible to consumers as they make selections for coverage. We support HBX efforts to hold plans accountable for quality and make that information available to the public.

DCPCA looks forward to continued partnership with HBX, insurance carriers, and health care providers as we work for a healthier DC. Please contact me at [pquinn@dcpca.org](mailto:pquinn@dcpca.org) if I can be of assistance to the Committee in its work.