



**SIMPLE BUT POWERFUL SOLUTIONS THAT PRODUCE RESULTS**

December 2013

## **RIVER HEALTH** aco

We congratulate River Health ACO (RHACO) for its CMS approval as a Medicare Accountable Care Organization. RHACO, based in Harrisburg, PA comprises healthcare providers Pinnacle Health System, Susquehanna Health System, Family Practice Center, Annville Family Medicine, Susquehanna Community Health and Dental Center and the Laurel Health System. RHACO with its 198 primary care physicians and 41,000 Medicare beneficiaries becomes the largest ACO in Pennsylvania and will work with CMS to provide its Medicare beneficiaries with high quality care while reducing the rate of growth in Medicare expenditures. This will be accomplished by improving the coordination of care, focusing on health and prevention, and providing additional services to patients with chronic conditions.

RHACO was conceived in the late fall of 2012 to bring selected central Pennsylvania providers together to develop and operate new models of care capable of delivering high quality, high value, convenient, and accessible, coordinated health care to area residents.

The development of RHACO was an extension of Pinnacle Health's transition to population health management and accountable care delivery models.

While the founding organizations had little experience working together, each was committed to play an active role in the design, development, governance and operation of RHACO. An application was filed in July of 2013 with a go-live planned for January 1, 2014.

We supported the design, organization, application, and implementation phases of this initiative. We also helped develop and execute the River Health ACO implementation plan leading to a January 1, 2014 go-live.

We assisted in:

- The strategic decision to create a Medicare ACO as early step in the development of a population based model of care.
- Designing and creating regional partnership of hospital and physicians including its organizational and management structures committed to collaborating on creating a new delivery model.

- Assessing of the opportunity and challenges associated with making an ACO effective.
- Defining gaps in technology and care delivery systems that needed to be addressed.
- Completing detailed assessments of readiness of all partners
- Completing the RHACO business plan
- Completing the ACO application and following up inquiries by CMS
- Developing a detail execution plan, and
- Guiding RHACO and its partners through preparation for go live.
- Assuming interim leadership roles while recruitment was underway

Our seasoned consulting team includes executives, nurses and physicians with extensive experience with accountable care, population health and the management of health plans, physician groups and integrated delivery systems.

Please feel free to contact us to learn more about how we might help your organization design, develop and implement alternatives models of care delivery.

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