



511 Farber Lakes Drive  
Buffalo, NY 14221

April 29, 2020

To: **Western New York primary care providers participating in Primary Value**

Independent Health's senior leadership is aware of primary care physician practices' concerns about cash flow and ongoing impacts related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As part of Independent Health's history of support in revitalizing primary care, we are continuing with the additional funding your practice received for March and April, as further explained below to reinforce the importance of primary care physicians and their practices to the delivery of health care.

#### **Updates on the Global Payment**

To provide ongoing stability, Independent Health will continue to provide the supplemental global payment (formerly referred to as "Emergency Funding") through the rest of the year. We think you will agree that our approach helps ensure your viability, simplifies reimbursement and allows for flexibility to alternatively deliver care as impacts of COVID-19 will likely be felt long-term. The process will continue to be largely the same as prior payments. The supplemental portion of the global payment encompasses the same places of service as the Primary Value payment (02, 11 and 50).

The payments are based on your historical utilization and are risk adjusted at a practice level to better reflect your current population. As we will be continuing this payment through the remainder of the year, we will work to align the notifications of the rates with the typical Primary Value notices. To accomplish this, we will be sharing a blended rate for May and June and then update quarterly thereafter. Please see the section below regarding forthcoming Amendments which include the rates. Your practice will need to return these Amendments to Independent Health by **May 20, 2020** in order for this funding to continue and retroactively covering the payments from March and April.

We will continue to evaluate whether additional practice-specific adjustments are appropriate to account for changes within practices (E.g. to account for a practice closure). Any changes in approach will be communicated to impacted practices as appropriate.

This additional funding will process at the same time as your typical monthly GPMP payment. We will be making technical enhancements to more easily identify the different sources of payment on an ongoing basis.

**Please note that regardless of inclusion in this global payment, all claims should continue to be submitted and member liability collected as appropriate.** The AO modifier should not be submitted on claims for the remainder of the year under this model.

## **Primary Value Amendments**

In the next several days, you will receive notice through your provider portal of Primary Value Amendments to your Independent Health agreements, which require your attention. Upon audit, Independent Health must be able to support payments made by furnishing the appropriate documents to regulatory authorities. The Amendments need to be signed and returned to Independent Health by May 20, 2020. Should the Amendments not be returned, your practice will revert to the former payment model with no emergency funding retroactive to March 1, 2020.

This amendment documents the emergency funding back to March as well as the planned supplemental payment process for the remainder of the year and will serve to satisfy these regulatory requirements.

Please note that the timing of the return of the documents is very important due to the retroactivity process built around the Primary Value payment. Amendments should be returned in their entirety, and information on where to return them, as well as additional details will follow in a subsequent communication.

Sincerely,



Ann Pentkowski  
Executive Vice President  
Chief Financial Officer



Anthony J. Billittier IV, M.D.  
Executive Vice President  
Chief Medical Officer