



Thursday, October 13, 2016

**Statement from Lora Pellegrini, President of the MA Association of Health Plans
On the Office of the Attorney General's Health Care Cost Trends and Cost Drivers Report**

As today's report points out, wide variations in provider prices that are not explained by quality, patient complexity, or acuity persist and these historic rate differentials are being "baked" into new alternative payment arrangements. These are not new issues, having been highlighted in multiple reports from the Attorney General's Office and other state agencies, and the expansions, acquisitions and mergers taking place among providers may actually exacerbate the disparities in rates.

While the report recommends greater monitoring, transparency and engagement to encourage the use of high-quality, efficient providers, making health care affordable requires addressing the prices charged by doctors, hospitals and pharmaceutical companies and ensuring that significant changes taking place in the delivery system ultimately benefit employers and consumers through lower costs and better quality.

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