



Wednesday, September 13, 2017

Statement from Lora Pellegrini, President of the MA Association of Health Plans

On the Center for Health Information and Analysis' 2017 *Annual Report on the*

Performance of the Massachusetts Health Care System

Today's report demonstrates that the state has made important progress in addressing the cost of health care for employers, consumers and the Commonwealth. Our member health plans have been committed to making health care more affordable, working hard to rein in rising health care costs and contain their own costs.

Massachusetts health care costs are among the highest in the nation, creating very real challenges for individuals, families, businesses and the state budget. While significant effort has been undertaken to meet the cost benchmark, there is still more work to be done to make health care more affordable and to improve the quality of care and the state must remain focused.

Increases in prescription drug spending remain an ongoing challenge, with pharmacy costs continuing to outpace all other categories. As premiums reflect the cost of care, it is critical to address rising drug prices, along with increases in the cost of hospital outpatient care and other services charged by providers. Likewise, the report highlights the need to address the increase in hospital readmissions and the variation in quality provided to patients.

We commend Executive Director Ray Campbell and his staff on another outstanding report and we look forward to continuing to work with state leaders and our partners in the provider community on measures to contain costs and make health care more affordable for employers, consumers and the state.

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