

## Commercial Plans Championing ACO Model as Banner and United form Physician-led ACO in Arizona

Banner Health Network and UnitedHealthcare joined forces to announce this week they are launching an accountable care organization (ACO) to improve care coordination and enhance health services to nearly 50,000 UnitedHealthcare plan participants in Arizona.

The physician-led ACO is a big step in Arizona's health care system migrating from the volume based model of the fee-for-service era, to a model that focuses on the patient and rewards quality and value. Banner Health Network and its affiliated physicians will manage all aspects of patients' care, providing the right care in the right place at the right time. Primary care physicians in the ACO will receive regular patient updates, enabling them to monitor all of the care each patient is receiving, and to maintain all clinical information about each patient in a secure patient registry.

Banner includes 15 hospitals and was one of the original 32 organizations nationally selected by the Centers of Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to demonstrate the Medicare Pioneer Accountable Care Model. BHN was one of the top performers among this select group in terms of achieved savings in the first year. Using the same technology, clinical models and engaged care providers, BHN has been able to adapt these value-based learning's to better serve people enrolled in commercial health plans, such as those of UnitedHealthcare.

UnitedHealthcare and Banner Health Network will coordinate evidence-based care, ensuring that the primary care physicians, specialists and facilities are aligned with the Institute for Healthcare Improvement's (IHI's) "Triple Aim" objective: increase patient satisfaction, improve the health of the population and reduce the cost of health care.

Care providers will be eligible for payment incentives based on meaningful improvements in measures such as hospital readmission rates, disease management and prevention, patient safety and care delivery, as well as total cost savings and patient satisfaction.



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