



# Affirmant

## Health Partners™

## Newsletter

August 2017

A HEALTHY MICHIGAN AT AN AFFORDABLE COST

## Message from the CEO

Last week I was able to experience the solar eclipse with the Affirmant Team and some of my family members. We watched in awe as the moon blocked the sun and created a phenomenon that we won't witness again for another seven years. When our ancestors faced a solar eclipse, they only had their personal experiences to fall back on. Imagine how scary it must have been to unexpectedly encounter darkness in the middle of the day and not understand the reason why. Today we have calculations, documented events and data at our finger tips that can predict precisely when and where the next eclipse will occur. How fortunate we are to be able to experience this sensation without the fear of thinking the world is going to end.

serve as Affirmant is **powerful**. But, having data that is then aggregated, identifies vulnerable patients and predictive, is **priceless**.

This month I am proud to announce that we have signed a contract with Epic for Constellation, a population health management and accountable care platform for clinically integrated networks. Affirmant is the first super clinically integrated network (though not the first client) to use this platform.

Constellation builds on what we have with Epic and Epic Care Link and takes our data analytic capabilities to the next level. With this tool, physicians will have actionable, near real-time patient information at the point-of-care that includes care delivered both within and outside of our health systems. The benefits of this information include:

- Physician views of patient information at the point of care from Epic and non-Epic providers across the country - without the need to arrange data transfer for each individual patient

- Physician and care manager access to patient risk scores and care gaps in their workflow at the point of care
- Access to physician-, practice-, local Chapter- and Affirmant-level dashboards with internal and external benchmarks to identify best practices and improve performance

One of our values is "transformation" and I believe this describes the impact of Constellation. It takes a common platform we already have in place and builds on it to provide a meaningful tool for our physicians and ultimately, a better experience for our patients. I look forward to working with you to implement and fully leverage Constellation over the next nine months.

As we wrap up the summer, I wish you and your family a safe and happy Labor Day weekend and look forward to a successful last four months of 2017.

Best regards,

Dr. Bill Mayer



Now, I ask you to humor me as I make a connection to our work in data analytics, one of three sides of the Fire Triangle. Francis Bacon is credited with the phrase "knowledge is power," and having data about our patients and the population we

- Non-Epic user on-line access to the Epic integrated patient record with the ability to document in Epic their closure of gaps in care

# Constellation Features & Benefits

Constellation leverages the common platform we already have in place (Epic and Epic Care Link) to provide us with dramatically improved population health and physician decision support capabilities. It also realizes the value proposition behind our collaboration- sharing in the cost of population health management- by giving each of our Members and Chapters access to these capabilities at a fraction of the cost of licensing, implementation, maintenance and hosting. Epic Constellation will be transformational for Affirmant and our stakeholders, most importantly by providing physicians with actionable data at the point of care to drive more cost-effective clinical decisions.



Features & Benefits	Current State	Constellation
Patient data at point of care included from Epic providers	From local Epic providers; from other Epic providers one patient at a time	From all Epic providers across US, updated daily
Patient data at point of care from non-Epic providers	Not available in discreet form	Included from all non-Epic providers using Carequality E.H.R. exchange and claims
Affirmant-affiliated independent physician functionality	Read-only access to Epic provider data through Epic Care Link	Access to all Epic and non-Epic provider data with ability to document closure of care gaps
Patient risk scores at point of care	Not available	Available to physicians and care managers at point of care
Patient gaps in care at point of care	Not available	Available to physicians and care managers at point of care
Measures of quality and cost	Non-standard	Standard
Practice panel- and population-based quality and cost performance dashboards and benchmarks	Only for care delivered through local Epic providers	Available to all Affirmant physicians and Chapters for care from all providers; local, Affirmant and national benchmarks included

## COMET is Coming!

Continuing Online Medical Education and Training or COMET will be the tool Affirmant uses to push out best practice training and information to our participating physicians. We see four distinct advantages to utilizing COMET:

1. COMET can help us implement the Clinical Transformation System (CTS) and brings to life the five elements of the CTS (Guidelines, Engagement, Care Coordination, Support and Accountability & Rewards).
2. COMET is available on any web browser and can be accessed anywhere with an internet connection.
3. COMET has the capability to push out educational materials and information to physicians and administrative staff about our organization and progress to keep us FTC (Federal Trade Commission) compliant.
4. An additional bonus feature is the access to the CME library and opportunities for clinicians to earn CME credits, free of charge.

# Affirmant.com is live

With guidance from the Communications and Education Committee, the [Affirmant.com](http://Affirmant.com) website is live. The initial website will be a landing page that highlights our value proposition, our geographic footprint, links to our member systems and news. As we grow and have more robust programs, our site will evolve as well. We are excited to have a presence on the web and a way for interested parties to learn more about our work.



## December Town Hall : Save the date

Please save the date for our third Affirmant Town Hall, hosted by Henry Ford Allegiance Health, on December 11, from 1:00 – 2:00 pm. Dr. Bill Mayer, President and CEO of Affirmant, will give an overview of our progress, outline our vision for the future and take your questions and comments. The town hall series will be hosted quarterly at different Affirmant member sites. We are thrilled to offer this unique opportunity and hope you will save the date and join us!



**HENRY FORD  
ALLEGIANCE HEALTH**

## Post Acute Care Workgroup

The Clinical Transformation Committee (CTC) has approved recommendations from our Post-Acute Care (PAC) Workgroup for a standardized, evidence-based best practice program to improve the cost-effectiveness of our post-acute care. The PAC program is focused on improving appropriateness of patient discharge setting, increasing utilization of preferred post-acute network providers, improving performance of post-acute network providers, and decreasing readmissions. Detailed work plans and supports are under development and will be disseminated in the weeks to come. At the September Board of Managers Meeting, Kira Carter-Robertson, Vice President, Post-Acute Care (Sparrow) and Jenny Houttekier, Director of Clinical Transformation (Affirmant), will present the findings and action plans to the system leaders and ask for support in moving this initiative forward.

# Our team is growing!

Please welcome **Lawrence “Larry” Green** to Affirmant Health Partners as the **Director of Payer Strategy**. Larry comes to us from Judah Consulting, where he was Managing Partner. Judah Consulting provided managed care contracting expertise to independent physicians in urban settings, primarily in the Midwest.



Besides his work with independent physicians, Larry has also worked with certified CMS registries to help them develop

solutions for their clients interested in APMs and ACO participation.

Before joining Judah Consulting, Larry was Vice President of Operations at Resurrection Health Care Preferred (now Presence Health) a managed care contracting organization comprised of 1,100 physicians at ten hospitals in the Chicago area. Larry has also served as Vice President of Managed Care at Ascension Health, and has held several senior managed care posts during his career at Advocate Health Care and HCA Healthcare.

Larry was recruited to work with the Contracting Committee and functional leadership to develop Affirmant’s payer strategy, particularly as it relates to

customer and product priorities. He is responsible for crafting payer strategies and partnerships with health plans, local brokers, employer health coalitions, and other community organizations.

Larry, a Chicago native, was raised in Hyde Park. He spent his college years in nearby DeKalb, Illinois, where he received his Bachelor of Arts in Pre-Law from Northern Illinois University. Larry also has graduate degrees from The University of Chicago (A.M.) with honors and Northern Illinois University (MBA).



Also please welcome **Kim Bloom** to Affirmant Health Partners as **Executive Assistant**. Kim comes to us from Robert Half

Office Team where she supported clients as a Senior Executive Assistant. Prior to moving to Kalamazoo, Kim worked for Ernst and Young LLP in Philadelphia for three years as an Executive Assistant. In her new position, she coordinates and supports administrative related activities for both Affirmant and the Federation ACO.

A native of Washington, D.C., she earned her B.A. degree cum laude in English and minor in Journalism from Virginia Union University in Richmond, Virginia.



We are also growing our current employees!

Please congratulate **Katy Velten** on her promotion to **Director of Communications**

for Affirmant Health Partners. Katy joined Affirmant in June 2016, and has been instrumental in the successful launch of our brand and messaging around our vision to achieve a healthy Michigan at an affordable cost. Katy will continue to be responsible for the engagement of, education and communication with our six member systems, seven local Chapters, and over 6,000 participating physicians. In addition to that, she will have expanded responsibilities related to strategy, budgeting and planning.

Outside of Katy’s professional responsibilities, she serves on the Board of Directors for the Michigan Society for Healthcare Planning and Marketing, mentors up-and-coming leaders through Southwest Michigan First and is currently pursuing her Master’s in Communications from Western Michigan University. In her free time you can find her with her husband and two daughters enjoying a musical, reading, traveling or golfing.

## August Video Blog

Did you get a chance to see the August video blog? Dr. Mayer talks about our contract for Epic Constellation and the benefits it brings to our physicians.

