

Press Release from Think Whole Person Healthcare

Nebraska Medicare Patients Spend Over \$1,000 Less Than National Average

Think Whole Person Healthcare has Lowest Cost of Care in State

EMBARGOED UNTIL 11am FRIDAY: FEB 9, 2018: The annual cost of healthcare for Nebraska Medicare patients in an Accountable Care Organization is \$1,156 less than the national average, according to an analysis of the most recent Medicare data for Accountable Care Organizations.

A report by health policy expert, Dr. Bob Rauner, also revealed that Nebraska Medicare patients visit hospitals less than the national average.

Dr. Rauner analyzed the Medicare ACO data on the five Medicare ACOs' in the State and compared them to national data. His report, published at Think Whole Person Healthcare yesterday, showed the national average hospital admissions was 328 per 1,000 in 2016, compared to 298 here in Nebraska.

"The best performing ACO in Nebraska in terms of overall cost of care and hospital admissions per 1,000 was Think Whole Person Healthcare," said Dr. Rauner.

"Think's overall cost of care was \$8,645; \$1,057 per patient less than the Nebraska average. At Think, just 266 patients per 1,000 were admitted to hospital - 32 less than the Nebraska average of 298. These figures show Think saved an additional \$7.8 million dollars over their 7,904 attributed Medicare patients compared to their peers in the State."

But this was only half the story when it came to the clinic on West Center Road in Omaha. Think also announced results from Blue Cross Blue Shield's Treo data for 2016 showing the clinic had average savings of \$744.96 per patient for the year for each one of its 6,383 Blue Cross Blue Shield attributed patients in that period. That's a total of \$4,755,080.

"This means that Think Whole Person Healthcare saved over \$12.5 million on the total cost of care of its Medicare and Blue Cross attributed patients in 2016," said Think CEO Rick Pane.

"What we always have to remember is that every unnecessary dollar spent on healthcare is a dollar spent on suffering. By keeping our patients well, and out of hospitals we have saved them, Medicare and employers through commercial insurance both money and suffering

"What is clear is that when you intensify primary care, you cut the overall cost of healthcare. Our patients are staying well for longer. That means a better quality of life for them and their loved ones and less cost to them and the health system."

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“Both of these results are underpinned by our results on the key quality measures,” said Think Chief Medical Officer Dr. Joe Miller. “We were the top performing ACO in Nebraska in 12 of the 34 Medicare quality measures and also the top performing ACO for Blue Cross Blue Shield. This proves that providing quality primary care leads to better outcomes for patients and therefore lower costs.”

“We are pleased with how well Think is caring for our members,” Dr. Joann Schaefer, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska Executive Vice President said. “It’s clear their dedication to providing high quality, low cost solutions is showing not only in our data but in the national Medicare data as well.”

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Think Whole Person Healthcare

Think Whole Person Healthcare is one of the largest independent primary care centers in the US. The clinic employs over 300 people across a wide range of primary care disciplines serving more than 40,000 patients.

Think is an Accountable Care Organization specifically geared towards serving the needs of patients with chronic conditions who need ongoing care coordination to keep them on goal and out of hospital. The center is based at 7100 West Center Road, Omaha, and opened on July 6, 2015. Think takes a team approach to managing its patients with Physicians, Care coordinators, Clinical Pharmacists and RNs all working at the center of the team in a unique, integrated approach to managing older, sicker patients with multiple chronic conditions.

The clinic also has a dispensing pharmacy and key primary care functions such as Podiatry, Physical Therapy, Behavioral Health, Dentistry and Optometry. Labs, X-ray, CT, Mammograms, Ultrasound and Dexa are also all done in house in the custom-build center and there is a convenience care center for walk-in patients.

Think physicians and clinicians see over 2,500 patients on a daily basis. Think is totally focused on customer service and committed to its mission of providing better outcomes for patients, giving them an enhanced health experience and lowering the cost of their care through looking at the whole person.

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