



STATE OF WASHINGTON
HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY

626 8th Avenue, SE • P.O. Box 45502 • Olympia, Washington 98504-5502

January 28, 2014

Mr. Steve Hill
Project Director
Dr. Robert Bree Collaborative
Foundation for Health Care Quality
705 Second Avenue, Suite 703
Seattle, WA 98104

SUBJECT: Washington Health Care Authority commitment to implementation of Bree Collaborative recommendations

Dear Mr. Hill: *Steve*

Thank you and the Bree Collaborative again for your work and ongoing dedication to improve quality and reduce unwarranted variation in Washington State. The Washington Health Care Authority (HCA) and our sister health care purchasing agencies (Department of Labor & Industries and Department of Corrections) appreciate the work, collaborative energy, and recommendations of the Bree. In our view, the Bree is playing a key role in helping Washington State create a high-performing health care system that delivers better health, better care, at lower costs for all.

HCA has reviewed the following reports and recommendations from the Bree Collaborative. The following is to formally acknowledge receipt, review and acceptance of the Spine SCOAP and Cardiology recommendations and to provide a brief update on decisions related to the adoption of specific strategies therein:

- **Spine SCOAP Recommendation:** HCA submitted the Spine SCOAP recommendations to our sister agencies for feedback. All agencies support community participation in Spine SCOAP and recognize the value for continued data collection efforts for back surgeries. We continue to work on implementation strategies, internally and with the Bree Implementation Team (BIT), to support greater hospital participation in this effort.
- **Cardiology Report:** HCA submitted this report and its recommendations to our sister agencies and again all agencies support this work and these recommendations. We share concerns with variability and limited transparency and support the efforts of COAP to bring to light the appropriateness of procedures that are affecting many individuals in Washington.

HCA's vision is to publicize and apply Bree recommendations to state purchased health care programs through its purchasing activities, and at the same time, play an active role in the broader

Mr. Steve Hill
January 28, 2014
Page 2

execution of recommendations across the health care community. To transform our vision into a reality, HCA has taken the following initial steps:

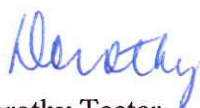
- Obstetrics Care Report: HCA added an obstetrics measure to the Medicaid Quality Incentive Program, per the Bree's recommendation, starting July 2014. Additionally, we are building our web infrastructure to publicize ongoing obstetrics care recommendations, improvement goals and transparent data, targeted at providers, health care systems and hospitals.
- As stated in the recently published Washington State Health Care Innovation Plan, the Bree recommendations will play a major role in how Washington purchases care in the future. HCA will require all contractors to implement Bree's evidence-based purchasing and guidelines as a condition of receiving state funding. In addition, Washington will prioritize areas of high-variation, high-cost procedures and use its levers as a purchaser to drive innovation in Bree's current and future topic areas.
- As specifically raised in the Innovation Plan, Washington is working with its payer partners to require participation in the Foundation for Health Care Quality's COAP and Spine SCOAP programs, per the Bree's recommendations.
- HCA Chief Medical Officer Dan Lessler, MD chairs the Bree Implementation Team. As chair, he will bring BIT members together to find collaborative, market-wide implementation solutions.

Further work is needed from all Bree participants to implement recommendations across different topic areas and HCA is the leader in that effort.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact me by telephone at (360) 725-1523 or via email at dorothy.teeter@hca.wa.gov.

Again, thank you, the various workgroups, and Bree Collaborative members for your excellent work and continued dedication to improving quality and decreasing variation in Washington State.

Sincerely,



Dorothy Teeter
Director

cc: Ginny Weir, Bree Program Director
Jason McGill, Governor's Office
MaryAnne Lindeblad, Medicaid Director, HCA
Dan Lessler, MD, Chief Medical Officer, HCA
Nathan Johnson, Director, Division of Policy, Planning and Performance, HCA
Josh Morse, Health Technology Assessment Program Director, HCA