



STATE OF WASHINGTON
HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY

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February 27, 2019

Hugh Straley, MD
Chair, Robert Bree Collaborative
c/o Foundation for Health Care Quality
705 Second Avenue, Suite 410
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Dr. Straley:

SUBJECT: Collaborative Care for Chronic Pain Report and Recommendations

Thank you for your correspondence of January 28, 2019 regarding the Collaborative Care for Chronic Pain Report and Recommendations. We have reviewed and accept the recommendations developed by the Robert Bree Collaborative. Pursuing and implementing up-to-date, evidence-informed guidelines promises to improve the health and health outcomes of children and adults in Washington State.

As you know, beginning in 2018 the Health Care Authority (HCA) initiated reimbursement for the Collaborative Care model (CoCM) for behavioral health conditions in the Washington Apple Health (Medicaid) program. Through work with the AIM Center, this was subsequently expanded to include reimbursement for substance use disorder care. The development of CoCM by the AIM Center combined with the work of the Bree adds value and clarity to how members of the health system can improve access and appropriateness of care for chronic pain. HCA will take this work and determine how to pay for and incentivize use of CoCM for chronic pain in our state programs.

Thank you and the Collaborative for continuing your outstanding efforts to improve the safe and effective purchasing and improvement of health care and overall health in Washington State. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Josh Morse, Health Services Section Manager, by telephone at 360-725-0839 or via email at Josh.Morse@hca.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Susan E. Birch, MBA, BSN, RN
Director

Josh Morse, Health Services Section Manager, CQCT, HCA