

February 28, 2008

Dear Maine Physicians (3 Blue Ribbon Recipients Adult Practices):

On behalf of the Maine Health Management Coalition's (MHMC) members, we would like to thank you for participating in the 2007 Pathways to Excellence (PTE) program and to congratulate you on achieving a blue ribbon in each of the categories:

- Office Systems Survey
- Diabetes Process/Outcomes Clinical Metrics
- IVD Process/Outcomes Clinical Metrics.

Your blue ribbons will stay up on the MHMC website ([www.mhmc.info](http://www.mhmc.info)) until April 1, 2009, so you do not need to submit any information this year unless you would like to update your ratings.

We would also like to inform you of some important changes that will be taking place this year and beyond related to PTE reporting. The MHMC recently made the decision to transition from our own data collection to utilizing Bridges to Excellence (BTE) and/or the National Committee on Quality Assurance (NCQA). Beginning 2009, PTE will solely use national recognition entities such as BTE or NCQA for assigning blue ribbons for Office Systems and for the adult practice Process/Outcomes Clinical Metrics. Please see the attached FAQ for more information about these changes.

Because of the conversion to national metrics, your three blue ribbons for the three PTE categories will automatically be carried over to 2008. In addition, you will be granted a "Level I" recognition status for BTE's Physician Office Link (POL), Diabetes Care Link (DCL) and Cardiac Care Link (CCL) programs for 2008. This reprieve from reporting for 2008 was a strategic decision made by the MHMC to allow you sufficient time to plan for reporting to BTE or NCQA in 2009. Once again, receiving recognition from a national entity such as BTE or NCQA will be the only way to achieve a ribbon for PTE in 2009.

You need not submit anything additional for 2008 but if you choose to resubmit in an attempt to increase your survey score, you are welcome to do so by contacting Mindy Perkins, Survey Administrator at [mperkins@mhic.org](mailto:mperkins@mhic.org) and she will provide you with an access code and instructions for submitting your data. As in the past, PTE information will be publicly reported on the Internet ([www.mhmc.info](http://www.mhmc.info)) and, in some cases, integrated into health plan financial incentive programs and/or employer benefit programs.

Once again, thank you for participating in PTE, a program designed to improve health care in Maine. Thanks to the past participation of over 300 Maine practices, the people in Maine now have even more information that they can use to assess the delivery of care and to make important health care choices. We also appreciate your cooperation as the MHMC's PTE program transitions to using national metrics to assign blue ribbons. This will result in some changes but we are confident that it will reduce duplicative reporting efforts and ultimately improve the standardization and efficiency of clinical performance measurement and public reporting efforts across the state.

Please don't hesitate to contact us or your local physician hospital organization with any questions or concerns that you might have regarding this process.

Once again, thank you!

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