

Frequently Asked Questions

1. WHAT IS CLINICAL INTEGRATION?

Clinical Integration (CI) is commonly defined as physicians and health systems working together, using proven protocols and measures, to improve quality of patient care, decrease costs, and demonstrate value to the market.

2. WHY ARE WE DEVELOPING A CLINICALLY INTEGRATED NETWORK (CIN)?

The healthcare environment is evolving through the reform era on national and local levels. We are building a CIN because, in our market:

- **Escalating Cost** of healthcare is unsustainable
- Payment models are changing from **Volume-to-Value**
- Market success will be based on demonstrated **Value** (highest documented quality and the lowest possible cost)
- Volume, tied to **Narrow or Preferred Networks**, will be directed away from us if we do not

3. WHAT ARE THE REGULATORY GUIDELINES FOR CI PROGRAMS?

In 1996, the Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) defined CI as an active and ongoing program to evaluate and modify practice patterns by the network physician participants and create a high degree of interdependence and cooperation among the physicians to control costs and ensure quality. Generally, the FTC considers a program to be clinically integrated if it:

- Establishes mechanisms to monitor and control utilization of healthcare services that are designed to control costs and ensure quality of care;
- Selectively chooses CI network physicians who are likely to further these efficiency objectives; and
- Invests financial and human capital in the necessary infrastructure and capabilities to realize the claimed efficiencies.

4. WHAT IS BAPTIST PHYSICIAN PARTNERS?

Baptist Physician Partners (BPP) is a not-for-profit subsidiary of Baptist Health. BPP is a Clinically Integrated Network between Baptist Health and physicians created to assist providers with the transition from volume to value in continuing to deliver high quality patient care.

This network will allow providers to implement physician-directed quality improvement programs that focus on improving patient care and clinical outcomes.

5. WHAT IS THE VISION FOR BPP?

Members of the physician community and Baptist Health formed a Vision Team. The key components of the vision include:

- Developing a physician-driven network with strong citizenship and leadership representation from multiple specialties
- Aligning incentives for all stakeholders that reward demonstrated performance
- Fostering a culture of collaboration between physician and health system leadership

- Utilizing a data-driven approach that provides accurate, available, reliable, real time, granular data at the physician level to increase the quality of care to the patient
- Demonstrating clinical excellence that is recognized by patients, payers and employers
- Optimizing service line delivery in a patient and family-centric model that results in the highest quality of care

6. HOW WILL CLINICAL PROTOCOLS BE SELECTED?

Physician-led committees will develop, monitor and review quality measures for physicians who participate in BPP. A core set of quality measures will be determined utilizing evidence-based guidelines and may be specialty-specific when appropriate. Quality measures will be created for all specialties by the physicians within those specialties.

7. WHAT IS THE GOVERNANCE AND ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF BPP?

Baptist Physician Partners is governed by a 16 member Board of Managers. This physician-led Board is comprised of 11 physicians and five healthcare system executive representatives. The Board of Managers is responsible for the overall strategy and direction of the CI network, and the evaluation and approval of committee findings, recommendations and action plans.

BPP Committees:

Performance Improvement Committee - Evaluates and identifies participation and performance criteria to create a high-performing CI network at Baptist Health, and monitors the ongoing performance of the CIN, as it relates to meeting the defined quality metrics.

Information Technology Committee - Identifies the IT infrastructure needed to ensure that accurate and reliable clinical data is easily accessible throughout the network in order to meet network objectives.

Membership & Quality Committee - Develops education and communication plans to support initiatives and engages Baptist Health and the broader medical staff. This committee identifies and validates membership needs, reviews applications and makes recommendations to the Board of Managers. They assist with the onboarding process.

Finance & Contracting Committee - Evaluates market readiness to adopt CI payment models, identifies available contracting options to fund network development, and develops distribution methodologies that support network objectives.

8. IS BPP AN ACCOUNTABLE CARE ORGANIZATION (ACO)?

No, currently BPP is not an ACO. Accountable Care Organizations are groups of doctors, hospitals, and other health care providers, who come together to give coordinated high quality care to their Medicare patients. Usually this model involves risk-based incentives. Baptist Physician Partners is a clinically integrated network. At this time, there is no financial risk to participating physicians.

9. HOW DO I JOIN BPP? IS THIS NETWORK EXCLUSIVE?

The network participation application process reflects group enrollment with an individual physician joinder agreement. To join BPP you must submit the following documents:

One per group

- Group Application
- Group Participation Agreement
- Group Business Associate Agreement

One per individual participating physician

- Provider Application
- Joinder Agreement

Applicants are reviewed and considered for membership on an individual basis according to the physician's commitment to improve the health of patients served by the network, physician's qualifications, physician's practice history in the community, and the network geographic and specialty needs at the time of enrollment. Membership is open to independent physicians as well as those employed by Baptist. All applicants must be board-certified or board-eligible at the time of application. This network is NOT exclusive.

10. DO I NEED TO PUT FORTH ANY INITIAL CAPITAL TO PARTICIPATE IN BAPTIST PHYSICIAN PARTNERS?

No, all initial capital was funded by Baptist Health.

11. DO I NEED TO PAY DUES?

There is no initial membership fee to join BPP. Annual participation dues will be established by the BPP Board of Managers.

12. WHAT ARE THE EXPECTATIONS OF PARTICIPATING MEMBERS IN BAPTIST PHYSICIAN PARTNERS?

Group shall cause providers to actively and meaningfully participate in all initiatives, efforts, and requirements of BPP related to the design, development, implementation, and operation of BPP's Clinically Integrated Network.

13. IF I AM UNHAPPY MAY I LEAVE THE NETWORK?

Any party may terminate the network participation agreement without cause by providing the other party with ninety (90) days prior written notice.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT BAPTIST PHYSICIAN PARTNERS:

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