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Corvallis Clinic**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide early comments on the forthcoming HB 2362 Healthcare Market Oversight Rules. The organizations listed above are dedicated to providing access to quality healthcare across Oregon, and include many small and independent clinic owners operating outside of the larger hospital systems. Our individual members look forward to participating in the Rules Advisory Committee process, and respectfully request that the below points be considered for early drafts of the rules. These comments are not comprehensive, as we expect additional thoughts to arise throughout the RAC process and as draft rules become available.

Definitions

Medical Services Contract

The rules should carry over language from the statute that makes clear that contracts between providers and carriers, or between clinics and providers or provider groups are not pulled into the review requirements. Additionally, we request that clear language stating that contracts or agreements between providers and state or local governments are exempt from review be included in the rule.

30-Day Review

The initial 30-day review process should include opportunity for a dialogue between the Authority and the entities, including regular updates on the standing of the review by the Authority. Should the Authority find a need for a comprehensive review, there should be a time-limited dispute option and process in place, as a comprehensive review may not be necessary with additional information provided.

The initial form should be a flexible document, and for both the initial and comprehensive review, the Authority should consider likely outcomes if a transaction is denied, or a comprehensive review is determined necessary.

Emergency Exemptions

Rapid administration turnover, inability to recruit providers and/or staff, and inability to meet quality metrics all impact a practice's ability to provide access to patients, and should be included in the definition of emergency that qualifies for an exemption. Additionally, liquidity should be a factor.

Review Board

The proceedings of the review boards should be subject to public meetings laws. As well, any hearings should have the option to be held virtually. COVID-19 has shown that virtual meetings encourage public participation.

We anticipate that we will have additional comments once the draft rules are published, and look forward to engaging in the RAC process moving forward. We encourage the Authority to add additional RAC meetings to the calendar, as two meetings to discuss all of the above issues and any issues arising out of the draft rules may be insufficient.

Thank you for your consideration of the above,

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