

## **CMS FINDS BETH ISRAEL DEACONESS ACCOUNTABLE CARE ORGANIZATION IMPROVED HEALTH CARE QUALITY WHILE CONTINUING TO REDUCE HEALTH CARE COSTS**

WESTWOOD, MA – The Pioneer Accountable Care Organization (ACO) at Beth Israel Deaconess Care Organization (BIDCO) improved care quality and effectively managed cost trends for the third straight year. BIDCO’s performance was among the best in Massachusetts and fifth among Pioneer ACOs nationally.

“I am very proud of the work we’ve done during the past three years and the new initiatives we implemented in 2014 that helped BIDCO once again be named a top-performing Pioneer ACO in Massachusetts,” said Jeffrey Hulburt, Interim BIDCO President and CEO. “Our results, particularly in the Commonwealth’s high-performing health care market, emphasize our physician and hospital members’ commitment to providing high-quality, coordinated health care at sustainable costs. It is extremely rewarding to see them recognized as national leaders in health care transformation.”

BIDCO generated \$16.3 million in savings for the Pioneer ACO Model sponsored by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Innovation Center. These results equate to \$9.8 million in shared savings for BIDCO providers who share accountability for patient care. BIDCO has created nearly \$50 million in savings for the CMS initiative since becoming a Pioneer ACO in 2012.

BIDCO has been successful in the Pioneer ACO program by continuously finding innovative ways to encourage care coordination and clinical integration. Specific examples include:

1. Launching a Three-day Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Rule Waiver initiative that allows carefully selected patients to be directly admitted to pre-approved SNFs, bypassing Medicare’s required three-day hospital stay. The initiative provides medical services similar to those offered at a hospital, including rehabilitation services, ultimately reducing the time a patient spends away from home while improving the patient’s experience.
2. Deploying Nurse Practitioners to provide medical care to high-risk patients in their home, instead of in a physician office or outpatient facility through its HouseCalls Medicine Program. These patients usually have multiple chronic diseases, for example diabetes and chronic heart failure, and are at risk for hospitalization or worsening health issues. The program has been shown to improve health outcomes, improve quality of life, support family members in managing patient care, and lower costs.
3. Developing Emergency Department guidelines with Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. The new guidelines improve collaboration between outpatient services, such as urgent care, primary care, and home infusion programs, and the Emergency Department, in ways that provide patients timely and appropriate follow-up care thereby improving their medical condition and reducing the likelihood they will be admitted to a hospital.

4. Continuing a program to actively engage patients and their families and caregivers in decision making near the end of a patient's life that supports their wishes.
5. Offering patients access to a community-based program focused on disease self-management. The program teaches patients how to put themselves at the center of their care, and gives them the tools to better manage their health (e.g., how to take medicine the correct way, how to effectively communicate with their care team.)
6. Serving as a member of the Health Care Transformation Task Force, a national consortium of industry leaders, committed to aligning private and public sector efforts to transform the U.S. health care system.

Dr. Alan Abrams, MD, Interim BIDCO Chief Medical Officer and Medical Director for Pioneer ACO and geriatrician, credits BIDCO's integrated network of physicians and hospitals as a key factor in the ACO's success. "Providing high-quality, efficient health care requires engagement across the care continuum. Our doctors and hospitals truly align with a shared commitment, along with our community care partners, to improve patient experience, health care quality, and population health, while reducing cost."

In 2011, BIDCO was named one of only 32 provider organizations across the country chosen to work with the CMS in the Pioneer ACO Model to provide Medicare beneficiaries with higher quality care, while reducing growth in Medicare expenditures through enhanced care coordination. BIDCO has been a top-performing Pioneer ACO in Massachusetts and a national leader in the innovative program since the model started in 2012.

### **Beth Israel Deaconess Care Organization**

Beth Israel Deaconess Care Organization (BIDCO) is a value-based, physician and hospital network and an Accountable Care Organization (ACO). With its corporate office located in Westwood, MA, BIDCO offers physician groups and hospitals the structure to contract, share risk, and build care management systems together, with the goal of providing the highest quality care in the most cost-efficient way. To deliver value to patients, commercial payors, and government, BIDCO leverages the shared skills of nearly 2,400 primary care physicians (PCPs) and specialists and numerous community hospitals, including Anna Jaques Hospital, Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital-Milton, Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital-Needham, Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital-Plymouth, the Cambridge Health Alliance, and Lawrence General Hospital. BIDCO has a tertiary affiliation with Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. BIDCO was an early adopter of merging global budget accountability with the delivery of high-quality care, and is one of the Pioneer ACOs contracted with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. For more information, visit [www.bidco.org](http://www.bidco.org).