


Moving to Value:
A Call to **Action**



October 21, 2020

Victoria Veltri
Executive Director
Office of Health Strategy
State of Connecticut

Subject: Moving to Value Alliance Support for Cost Growth Benchmark

Dear Vicki –

The Moving to Value Alliance (MTVA) is a multi-stakeholder group whose mission is to create a value-based healthcare ecosystem with the highest quality outcomes at a reasonable cost for the employers in Connecticut and their healthcare consumers. Our group has been convening stakeholders for three years.

One of the biggest obstacles to employers in Connecticut realizing higher value is the lack of transparency about cost and quality. MTVA started studying the use of cost growth benchmarks prior to Governor Lamont's Executive Order 5 because we observed the positive influence that cost growth benchmarks were having in Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Delaware.

We are embarrassed by many aspects of the Connecticut healthcare ecosystem:

- Leapfrog, the organization that employers rely on to measure hospital safety, had 12 hospitals with C ratings.
- Statewide healthcare costs are 11% higher than average, but parts of the state are as much as 18% higher than average
- Lack of primary care spending
- Statewide health inequities
- The lack of adequate and functional statewide digital healthcare infrastructure to support data interoperability and transparency

Connecticut needs to do better, and we believe that the transparency, accountability and reporting recommendations of the Healthcare Cost Growth Benchmark Technical Team will result in better value – for employers and the state's residents.

The healthcare system is facing challenges because of the COVID crisis. This crisis is not a reason to postpone implementation of a benchmark. On a daily basis we are seeing Connecticut healthcare system participants reinventing how they do things in ways that are resulting in higher healthcare value. We believe that the implementation of Connecticut's Cost Growth Benchmark will inspire others to find innovative solutions to bring down costs and improve outcomes.

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If there is any doubt about the need and real opportunity to do better, decision makers should take the time to view a recording of last Friday's MTVA forum featuring Dr. Marty Makary. It is a powerful message of the need for change, and ideas for how to execute them.

Meeting Recording:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/play/tGyULePNbRD1vN8EvxE4jeUwZ1akEFvDotsxWvmgjRR5_OjFdgz5yTWTm5SBOaS6cuxPGNt49iW-wi5.vPD28CB7doPahEvD

Access Passcode: EV20023A!

The executive committee of the Moving to Value Alliance strongly endorses the Governor's executive order and the draft report of the technical committee.

Thank you.

MTV Executive Committee

Steve Schutzer, MD
Orthopedic Surgeon, St. Francis Hospital;
Physician Executive, Trinity Health Of New England

Paul Grady
Principal, Alera Group

Jeffrey Hogan
Northeast Regional Manager, Rogers Benefit Group

Christine Arnold
Operations Manager, Rogers Benefit Group