Comagine Health

Compare Your Care: Explanation to Patient and Procedures for Choosing Non-Participation

Overview

Compare Your Care is a nonprofit initiative that gives health care teams (doctors, nurses, medical assistants, etc.) and the public information they can use to find high-quality health care. This document describes the purpose of the Compare Your Care initiative, as well as the legal and technical steps that are taken by Comagine Health to ensure that patient information is carefully managed at all times. It also includes opt-out instructions for patients who do not want their information to be included in the Compare Your Care process.

Initiative Description

Health insurance plans have information that is useful to a patient's health care team. For example, the plans can tell if patients who need breast cancer screening are receiving the screening as often as they should. As another example, health plans can use the requests for payment they receive from pharmacies to ask health care teams if people with asthma are getting the right medications. In the past, Oregon's health plans sent this information to health care teams at different times, in different formats, with different conclusions about care quality. Health care teams told health plans this doesn't work well.

The Compare Your Care initiative coordinates information based on aggregated claims data from 10 health plans, the Oregon Health Authority (Medicaid data) and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS, Medicare data) so that health care teams receive one consolidated report. There is one additional benefit to working together: The overall quality of care that each clinic provides can be measured and reported to the public.

Benefits to Patients

- Health care teams can be certain each individual patient receives care that science shows is best for that patient.
- Health care teams and clinics can learn what they do well, and what they can do to improve by studying their quality scores. This leads to better systems of care for patients.
- Patients will be able to see how well clinics perform at providing the best care and use this information to make decisions about their health care.
- When everyone works together — health care teams, patients and health plans — patient care improves.

Protecting the Privacy and Security of Patient Information

Protecting the privacy and security of patients' health information is of highest importance to all of the organizations that participate in the initiative. We do more than comply with privacy and security laws. We take every opportunity to make sure information is kept safe and is only seen by authorized, well-trained people.

Comagine Health takes rigorous legal and technical steps to assure that patient information is private and secure at all times. Data suppliers, clinics and data processors sign "business associate agreements" that spell out all the rules and requirements. The rules say what information is shared, who has permission to see it and how it is sent between computers. Only specially authorized individuals can see information about individual patients. All the staff in these organizations are thoroughly trained in the rules. These rules strictly specify that the

information cannot be used for any other purpose or shared with anyone else. These agreements provide serious punishments for violating the rules. Theft, tampering, lost data and inappropriate access are all highly unlikely because of the strict requirements. Should any of these occur, however, the rules say that every attempt will be made to notify each affected patient.

Patient Rights

The Compare Your Care initiative assumes that you agree to have the health care information from your insurance bills included – unless you opt out. All patients have the right to keep their information from being included if they choose. If you do not want your information to be sent to your health care team or included in measuring health care quality in Oregon, simply complete the attached form and send it to the address below. This action will not affect your medical care or insurance coverage in any way.

If you have any concerns about how Comagine Health protects the privacy and security of your health care information, you can write, telephone or email for more information:

Comagine Health
650 NE Holladay St., Suite 1700
Portland, OR 97232
(503) 382-3946
OregonData@comagine.org

To opt out of Comagine Health's Compare Your Care initiative, complete the form on the following page and submit to OregonData@comagine.org, or mail to:

Patient Opt-Out
Comagine Health
650 NE Holladay St. Suite 1700
Portland, OR 97232

I Choose NOT to Participate

Full Name (First, Middle, Last): _____

Address: _____

Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy): _____

Sex (male/female*): _____

By signing and submitting this form, I understand that I am choosing for my personal health information from insurance bills **not** to be included in Comagine Health's Compare Your Care initiative. I also understand that health information about me will not be available through this system to assist my health care team with my health care. I also understand that my information will not be used to measure and report the quality of health care in Oregon.

_____ _____

Patient, Guardian or Legal Representative Signature Date