

December 15, 2024

Chair Foster and Green Mountain Care Board Members:

As the Green Mountain Care Board considers the budget submission for OneCare Vermont, I would like to respectfully urge the Board to maintain the funding for the Regional Clinical Representative (RCR) program.

I am a family physician at St. Albans Primary Care, and I am the Chair of Primary Care Health Partners, which is the largest independent primary care group in Vermont. Primary Care Health Partners has 10 office locations throughout the state and provides primary care to over 30,000 Vermonters.

Primary care is the foundation of our healthcare system, yet reimbursement for primary care has not kept up with the cost to provide these services. The GMCB has stated its desire to see further investment in primary care, and we remain hopeful that we will see an ongoing commitment to achieving this including continued support for the RCR program.

Through the Comprehensive Payment Reform program, OneCare Vermont has made significant investment in independent primary care. As additional support for primary care, OneCare instituted the Regional Clinical Representative (RCR) program to help advance key primary care quality initiatives, such as improving management of hypertension, timely follow up for patients with chronic conditions after emergency room visits, and ensuring regular wellness/preventive visits. The funding for this RCR program enables clinical leaders to take the time out of their clinical practice hours to meet with individual practices to support implementation of workflows and tools that drive improvements in these areas. Since the implementation of the RCR program, we have seen measurable improvements of these quality initiatives in our own practices.

Without the financial support of the RCR program, it would not be possible for the clinical leaders to take the time out of their practice hours to devote to these important initiatives, which are focused on achieving improved health for Vermonters while also improving the efficiency and overall cost in our healthcare system. We see the RCR program as a meaningful investment in primary care and urge the Board to support its continued funding and inclusion in the OneCare Vermont 2025 budget.

Thank you for taking this into consideration.

Respectfully,

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