

Atrius Health, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Announce Deeper Collaboration to Transform Health Care Experience

State's largest insurer and largest independent medical group will work together under their first full risk payment contract for PPO to create a more affordable, patient-centered health care experience

BOSTON, Feb. 7, 2019 /PRNewswire/ -- [Atrius Health](#) and [Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts](#) ("Blue Cross") today announced a new seven-year agreement in which the two independent organizations will align around an advanced alternative payment model to co-create a new kind of health care experience that's simpler, easier to navigate, higher quality, and more affordable.



The agreement builds on the innovative work the two organizations have done together, beginning a decade ago with Blue Cross's pioneering [Alternative Quality Contract](#) (AQC), in which Atrius Health was one of the first providers to participate. Based on the success of the AQC, which reshaped health care in the Commonwealth and nationally, Blue Cross and Atrius Health are now collaborating again to create a seamless health care experience as well as new products and services for Atrius Health patients who are also Blue Cross members.

Focus areas for Atrius Health and Blue Cross will include developing more convenient ways of accessing care and navigating the health care system, more integrated population health programs, use of innovative technologies, and administrative simplification.

"We're excited to collaborate more deeply with Atrius Health to advance the goal of better care at a more affordable cost with an experience that helps patients better navigate the health system," said Andrew Dreyfus, president and CEO of Blue Cross. "It's part of our strategy to enter into deeper partnerships with physicians and hospitals that are aligned with these goals."

The agreement will also take alternative payment innovations to the next level. Atrius Health, a proven leader in coordinating patient care, will receive a global budget for the care of more than 130,000 of its patients who are Blue Cross members with commercial PPO, HMO and Medicare plans. This is the first Blue Cross provider contract and first Atrius Health commercial payer contract to have full risk (cost and quality accountability) for PPO members. In addition to supporting better alignment across the two organizations, this agreement will allow Atrius Health to better invest in care delivery models to improve patient experience, slow health care cost growth and provide the right resources to help people stay healthy and out of the hospital or emergency department.

"Blue Cross's commitment to improving patient experience makes them an outstanding partner for this journey toward a more accessible and affordable high-quality health care system in Massachusetts," said Steve Strongwater, MD, president & CEO of Atrius Health. "Their innovative approach to value-based payment goes hand in hand with our philosophy of finding new ways to better serve our patients, truly supporting our vision of transforming care to improve lives."

As two locally-based, not-for-profit, mission-driven organizations, Blue Cross and Atrius Health hope to take the innovations they develop in this non-exclusive agreement and expand them to serve as a model for how health plans and provider groups can align around improving quality, convenience and affordability. Both Blue Cross and Atrius Health remain committed to creative collaboration with other healthcare organizations to improve the health of Massachusetts communities.

About Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts (bluecrossma.com) is a community-focused, tax-paying, not-for-profit health plan headquartered in Boston. We are committed to the relentless pursuit of quality, affordable health care with an unparalleled consumer experience. Consistent with our promise to always put our members first, we are rated among the nation's best health plans for member satisfaction and quality. Connect with us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

About Atrius Health

Atrius Health, an innovative nonprofit healthcare leader, delivers an effective system of connected care for more than 720,000 adult and pediatric patients in eastern and central Massachusetts. Atrius Health's 32 medical practices, with more than 50 specialties and 825 physicians, work together with the home health and hospice services of its VNA Care subsidiary and in close collaboration with hospital partners, community specialists and skilled nursing facilities. Atrius Health provides high-quality, patient-centered, coordinated care to every patient it serves. Establishing a solid foundation of knowledge, understanding and trust with each of its patients, Atrius Health enhances their health and enriches their lives.



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