

## TODAY'S MESSAGE

# COST TRANSPARENCY TOOL UPDATED

In 2012, Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield Delaware (Highmark Delaware) launched an initiative that included a transparency tool that allowed our members to review cost comparisons for certain outpatient procedures at hospitals, ambulatory surgical centers, and radiology and laboratory centers throughout the state of Delaware.

With this tool, Highmark Delaware members who receive health care services can compare relative costs among different facilities in our area prior to undergoing a procedure. With this knowledge, members may be able to impact what their out-of-pocket costs may be through their selection of health care providers. We are sharing this data with you so you have a better understanding of the relative costs of your facility compared to others in Delaware for similar procedures.

It is our intention that this tool help you and your patients in making decisions. We know that you are in the best position to help your patients decide on the most appropriate treatment location.

Our recently updated transparency tool is now available – choose *Transparency* from the menu on the left-hand side of this page and then select *Cost Transparency Tool*.

### ABOUT THE TRANSPARENCY TOOL

This tool uses dollar sign symbols (e.g., \$\$\$) to represent relative costs, similar to how many restaurants are rated for costs. Actual costs will not be displayed.

Thank you for your continued efforts and support of Highmark Delaware's programs to improve patient education. Please contact your Highmark Delaware Provider Relations Representative if you have any questions about this transparency tool.