

## Partner Health

Many of the physicians who were successful in reaching the BCBSM Patient-Centered Medical Home designation are members of Partner Health, which is a subgroup of SJHP. Partner Health strives to redesign care delivery that achieves outstanding outcomes of care by using evidence-based models, integrated information technology processes, re-engineering principles and a service orientation. Physicians and practices in this group are supported in the process of transformation, but must be committed to the process using LEAN principles. Partner Health practices must:

- Comply with Clinical Practice Guidelines
- Implement IT tools to support care, including:
  - Disease Registry
  - Electronic Health Record
  - E-prescribing
- Participate in process improvement
- Enroll eligible patients in care management programs
- Make progress toward achieving targeted quality and utilization measures

If you are interested in joining this group and continuing to work towards the PCMH designation status in 2010, contact Partner Health at 248-849-8222 for more information.

## Practice e-Health

### **Electronic Prescribing—Part II**

As more financial incentives from CMS and private insurers are offered, an increasing number of health care providers are now considering electronic prescribing. In fact, many providers are feeling pressured to quickly choose a tool and implement a system that may significantly impact how their practice functions. The decision-making process should not be rushed or its importance minimized. Implementation of any technology will not be successful unless your practice chooses to *implement the right product at the right time*.

### **Assessing Practice Readiness**

There are a number of points to consider in determining if this is the right time to introduce e-prescribing. A helpful, comprehensive readiness questionnaire (with scoring) is available from the American Medical Association at:

[http://www.ama-assn.org/ama1/pub/upload/mm/472/hitdonate\\_physicians.pdf](http://www.ama-assn.org/ama1/pub/upload/mm/472/hitdonate_physicians.pdf) Please refer to pages 13-15 of the document for the tool. We urge you to use this in your readiness assessment, as well as visit the SJHP Web site for additional resource information.

### **Choosing the Best System for YOUR Practice**

There are many tools to choose from. When evaluating the various products it important to focus on functionality as well as the cost. The more closely a product's capabilities and integration features match your practice needs, the more likely a successful transition will occur.