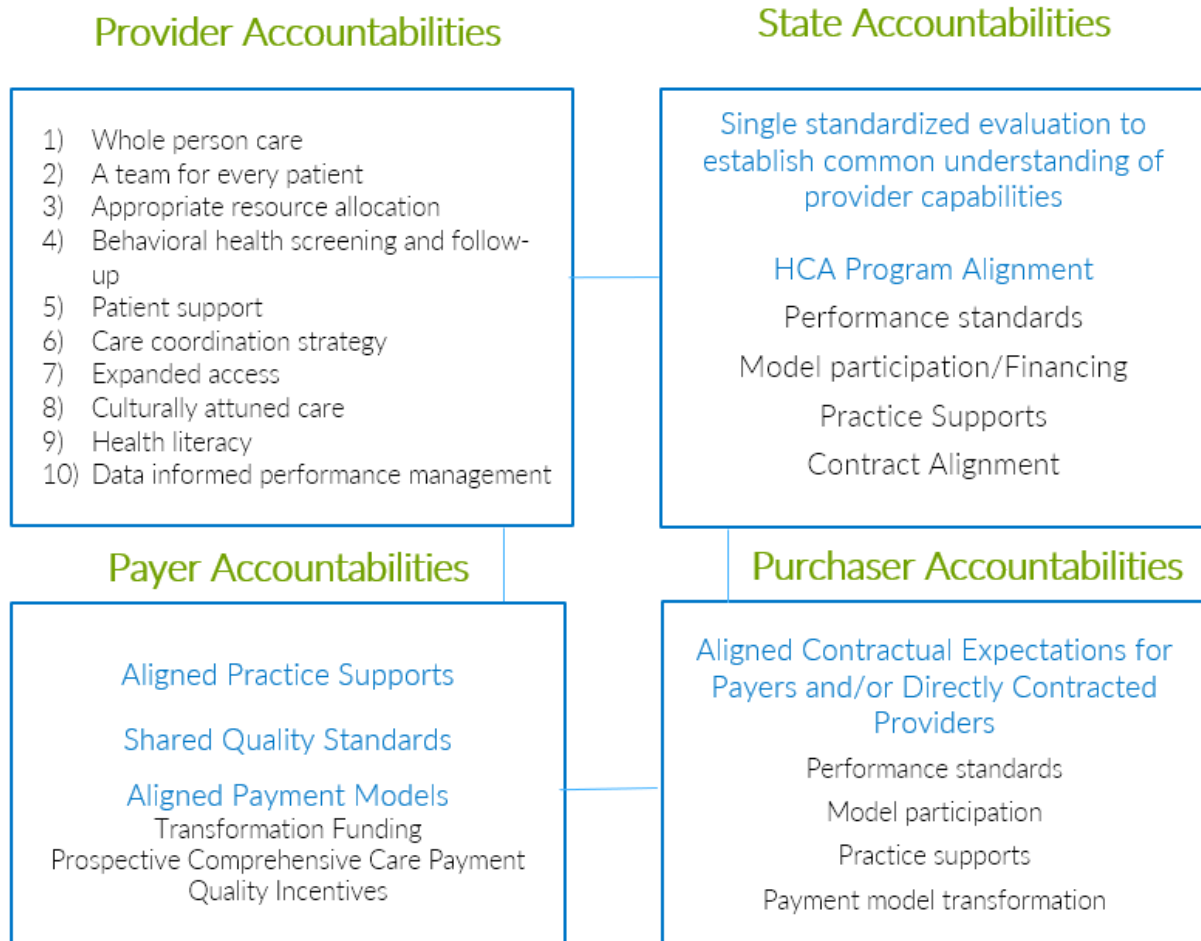

STATEMENT OF WASHINGTON PRIMARY CARE PURCHASERS IN SUPPORT OF MULTI-PAYER COLLABORATIVE PRIMARY CARE REFORM WORK

October 2023

Background

The Washington Health Care Authority, along with the state’s health insurers, third-party administrators (TPAs), and primary care provider community, have been working since 2019 to develop a new approach to delivering and paying for primary care. The Washington Primary Care Purchaser Group is a collaboration of Washington public and private organizations that sponsor health care insurance coverage for employees, retirees, and other members. The group was formed in May 2022 to support advanced primary care as represented by the [Washington Multi-payer Primary Care Transformation Model](#) (PCTM), which is designed to encourage moving away from fee-for-service primary care to focus on whole-person, integrated care and result in improved patient care and population outcomes across the state. The model is represented by the components outlined in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Core Components of Primary Care Transformation



Purpose and Scope

Purchasers, such as employers and health plan sponsors, participating in this initiative believe that while there are many paths towards a better health care system, all successful paths are based on a foundation of strong and advanced primary care. Recognizing that the impact of any one purchaser alone is limited, the purchasers in this initiative have collaboratively committed to a good faith effort to coordinate with each other and the HCA to transform the way in which primary care is delivered and financially supported in participating practices. As a result, purchasers individually and collectively are committed to the following in support of the Primary Care Transformation Model.

Washington Employers and Purchasers Will Continue to Advance Primary Care

Participating purchasers will use their collective influence to increase equitable access to advanced primary care by continuing to:

- Steer members to use advanced whole-person primary care and encouraging them to choose a primary care practice;
- Work to ensure access to advanced primary care services;
- Modify benefit design to reflect the priorities of advanced primary care;
- Align their standards and expectations; and
- Apply their health purchasing power by using procurement processes to select the carriers most prepared to engage in advanced primary care and using contracting processes to engage advanced primary care practices.

Opportunities for Collective Action

Purchasers individually and collectively are committed to developing a menu of possible actions in support of the PCTM and implementing as many as possible. Possible future actions may include:

- Developing aligned parameters to provide consistent direction to contracted vendors such as insurance carriers, TPAs, primary care clinics, and others in contracting, procurement, and payment.
- Meeting regularly to discuss purchasing strategies, including engaging in joint purchasing.
- Leveraging contracting and procurement processes to select vendors that can demonstrate effective primary care support strategies, and being willing to replace a vendor if needed. Primary care support strategies may include participating in the PCTM, providing practice supports (financial or technical assistance), and offering alternative payment methodologies with value-based purchasing.
- Supporting aligned transformative payment approaches that move away from fee-for-service payments for primary care.
- Requiring contracted vendors to be part of the PCTM, delivering a common model and competing on how well they implement it.
- Developing a “case” to help members understand the benefits of advanced primary care.
- Engaging in direct contracting with providers where effective to support advanced primary care.
- Supporting development of a centralized data repository for reporting and evaluation.

Washington Primary Care Purchaser Group organizations agreeing to this statement:

