



OneCare Vermont Accountable Care Organization
Board of Managers Resolution Invoking
Participation Waiver for UVMHC to Pay Room
and Board for Patient Discharged to Birchwood
Terrace Skilled Nursing Facility
September 17, 2024

WHEREAS, OneCare participates in the Vermont All Payer ACO Model Vermont Medicare ACO Initiative and the Vermont Medicaid Next Generation Program. The Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services by and through CMS, and the Department of Vermont Health Access, have provided certain waivers of federal and state fraud and abuse laws in connection with the Vermont All Payer ACO Model (“APM”), the Fraud and Abuse Waiver Notice for Vermont ACO Initiative; and

WHEREAS, Vermont hospitals are experiencing high inpatient and Emergency Department censuses, which includes patients who do not require emergency or acute care, but who remain in those settings as a result of non-medical barriers to discharge; and

WHEREAS, patients remaining in Emergency Department and inpatient beds limits the ability of hospitals to provide treatment to new patients presenting with emergent or acute care needs and detracts the patients’ treatment; and

WHEREAS, OneCare’s goals (shared with the entire health care delivery system) for cost and quality as well as patients’ needs are best served by transferring patients no longer in need of emergency or acute care out of emergency and acute care settings and to settings that deliver the medically appropriate level of care; and

WHEREAS, The Participation waivers are available when, among other things, the governing body of the ACO has reviewed and determined that the arrangements are reasonably related to ACO Activities. ACO Activities include:

- Promoting accountability for quality of care;
- Promoting accountability for cost of care;
- Promoting accountability for overall care;
- Managing and coordinating care;
- Encouraging infrastructure investment;
- Encouraging investment in re-designed care processes for high quality and efficient services delivery;
- Carrying out any obligation or duty under the Vermont ACO Initiative or the Vermont Medicaid NextGen Program (together “Programs”);
- Direct patient care;
- Promoting evidence based medicine;



- Promoting patient engagement;
- Reporting on quality and cost measures;
- Coordinating care with telehealth, remote monitoring and other technologies;
- Establishing and improving ACO clinical systems;
- Establishing and improving ACO administrative systems;
- Meeting Programs quality standards;
- Evaluating patient health;
- Communicating clinical knowledge;
- Communicating evidence-based medicine; and
- Developing standards for patient access and communication including to medical records.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Managers (the “Board”) of OneCare Vermont Accountable Care Organization, LLC (“OneCare”) as follows:

OneCare, in furtherance of its strategic goals and in pursuit of ACO Activities, and with an intention to assist in the response to high patient census in emergency and acute inpatient settings, is assisting its network of providers in implementing delivery system innovations. The OneCare Board of Managers has duly authorized the arrangement below and made a bona fide determination that it is reasonably related to one or more of the above ACO Activities. In invoking these waivers, no determination has been made that the arrangement is prohibited by any law regulation. The description of the arrangement is set forth below for the purpose of OneCare and its network availing themselves of the protections afforded under the ACO Participation Waiver.

1. The University of Vermont Medical Center (“UVMHC”), an ACO Participant, will pay for eight weeks medication costs for an Emergency Department patient to be discharged to Birchwood skilled nursing facility. The cost of medication was prohibitive for Birchwood to accept the patient, who required a sub-acute rehab stay, and might otherwise remain in the ED.