**Bridges to Excellence**

Through our agreement with Health Care Incentives Improvement Institute, Inc. (HCI3), Aetna participating physicians may be eligible for bonus payments per patient, per year for performance in one or more Bridges to Excellence (BTE) programs. HCI3 is a nonprofit company committed to creating significant leaps in health care quality. They do this by recognizing and financially rewarding physicians and other health care providers who demonstrate that they are following recognized standards of care for their patients.

Aetna is pleased to offer incentives for eligible physicians in family practice, general internal medicine, endocrinology, cardiology, neurology, neurosurgery and orthopedics, as applicable, in Washington state, Texas and Arizona.

**Criteria for program participation**

To obtain financial rewards available under BTE programs, eligible physicians must demonstrate high levels of clinical performance by first obtaining recognition from performance assessment organizations. These organizations include the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) and CECity in addition to any other BTE-accepted performance assessment organizations.

By becoming a recognized physician in one of the programs listed below, physicians can promote improvements in care standards, help reduce the rising cost of health care, and receive financial rewards and recognition.

**BTE programs eligible for Aetna pay-for-performance incentives**

Aetna has implemented the following programs (not all programs are available in all markets):

- **Cardiac Care Link (CCL)** - The CCL program focuses on improving the quality of care for patients with cardiovascular disease. To be eligible for CCL, a physician must first be certified under NCQA’s Heart/Stroke Recognition Program (HSRP). Certified physicians are then eligible for annual incentive payments for each cardiac patient covered by a participating employer. In this program, only individual physicians can be recognized.

- **Diabetes Care Link (DCL)** - The DCL program is intended to improve the quality of care for patients with diabetes. To be eligible for DCL, a physician must first be certified under NCQA’s Diabetes Recognition Program (DRP). Certified physicians are then eligible for annual incentive payments for each diabetic patient covered by a participating employer. In this program, both individual physicians and medical groups can be recognized.

Each physician’s reward amounts may differ, based on the three levels of recognition described below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Set Percentile</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Level I</td>
<td>DPRP-requires 60 out of possible 100 points</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>HSRP-requires 60 out of possible 100 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Level II</td>
<td>Includes the measurement of individual metrics summed to produce a composite score, with the inclusion of minimum requirements for all intermediate outcome control measures</td>
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<tr>
<td>Level III</td>
<td>Thresholds have been set to focus on exceptional performance</td>
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HCI3 has developed additional recognition programs in the areas of Patient-Centered Medical Home, spine care, hypertension, asthma, heart failure, coronary artery disease, pediatric care and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and other areas. Participation offers many benefits. In addition to financial rewards, program participation and certification can also provide:

- Improved access to diabetic, heart/stroke, and other patients seeking a physician to help treat and monitor specific conditions
- Recognition on NCQA’s website, a source consumers use in identifying qualified physicians
- Acknowledgement in DocFind®, Aetna’s online provider directory
- Recognition on the HCI3 website
- Enhanced consumer awareness, via employer communications, of the advantages of receiving care from certified physicians

For more information, visit the [HCI3 website](#).