



Primary Care Pilot for APPs

Local 7 has been working in conjunction with the company on a Primary Care APP pilot and wanted to inform you about the details and the why behind it.

What is the pilot?

Local 7 has been working with the company on a Primary Care APP driven pilot based on the Kaiser NW Care Essentials [Convenient Care Near Me](#) | [Care Essentials Hawthorne](#) | [Book Now - Care Essentials](#) and the Kaiser Target clinics in California [Our Services](#) | [Kaiser Permanente Target Clinics \(kptargetclinic.org\)](#). This will be a "quick clinic", or low acuity clinic, where the patient will be seen for their one low acuity issue. The APP will see up to 24 patients a day. Local 7 Primary Care APPs (one from each area: Metros' North, South and Central) as well as the Local 7 Contract Specialist have been working on and meeting with the company to develop strict booking guidelines and create templates for this pilot. This pilot is voluntary.

Why partner with the company on this pilot?

The company has made it clear over the last several months that increasing access would be its major push. Local 7 has had many discussions with the company concerning acuity and complexity of patients on the APP schedule. The company has an acuity report for every provider. This acuity number is a combination of CDSM and coding to arrive at a number through an algorithm. Based on this number, the APPs are seeing lower acuity than their physician colleagues. Local 7 does not agree with this and feels it may reflect differences in coding and not true acuity.

Local 7 does not believe increasing templates with the current level of acuity and complexity is sustainable for the APP and therefore began discussions for a low acuity clinic. When we were informed of the Primary Care CPMG template changes by HP Leadership, we asked if templates would be changing for the APP. Paneled APPs will be increasing to 20 and they have already been informed of these changes. When asking about an increase for non-paneled APPs, the response was; HP Leadership's goal is to increase access across the organization. We have been present in many meetings where it has been stated that unpaneled providers will increase to 22 and paneled to 20. To be clear, we have not been informed of any plans to increase the APP template. However, we have concerns this could occur and believe our best option is to pilot a low acuity, single complaint clinic.

What happens next?

Booking guidelines and a pilot template have already been created. The pilot will initially occur at 3 sites: Southwest, Skyline and Rock Creek. It will likely begin July or August. The template number will increase in phases to ensure the booking guidelines are followed before it is fully booked. There will be specific scripting and naming for the pilot to set patient and staff expectations. If the pilot is successful, there will be opportunity to add other locations. Local 7 is hoping this could increase job sustainability by decreasing acuity and at a minimum increase options for the APP in PC. We will keep you updated as the situations continues to evolve.

Sincerely,

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