

February 3, 2012
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From: Gloria Olson, Health Care Consumer
RE: Testimony: Senate Health Care, Human Services and Rural Health Policy Committee
Subject: SB 1580 Coordinated Care Organizations

This program needs to reflect the population needs of Central and Eastern Oregon and I hope that all licensed providers of these rural communities will be included as a core resource of the medical community.

Having read much of the CCO Implementation proposal I am concerned about what I don't find in the draft.

I don't find inclusion of naturopathic medicine, which essentially suggests there is discrimination against licensed Naturopathic Doctors (ND). Neither do I find reference to chiropractors, acupuncturists, and other licensed health care providers. Please note, I say "licensed providers". This delivery of health care service needs to be included in the CCO plan.

Over the years I have accessed the healing capability of many of these providers who have helped me recover from surgery, heal from physical trauma and develop my strength and stamina after these injuries or surgery. They provide a very valuable health care service. This important treatment was not covered by my insurance program and **these services really do need to be covered by insurance in a manner that is no different than insurance coverage with other health care providers.**

Here is an important fact; across rural central Oregon seems to be limited numbers of health care providers who accept Medicare patients. When I began searching for a physician I learned there was one, yes, one very young, new doctor, in the local community accepting new Medicare patients. I was stunned. I was searching for a physician with more experience in the local system plus a more experience with my age group and learned it was not possible. (I did meet with that person for a couple of years and learned his youth, coupled with inexperience did not provide me with the confidence I wanted)

During this time I learned of a natural physician and began consulting with that person paying my costs "out of pocket". I have had very valuable and appropriate service. My health insurance plan does not cover the services provided by this physician. This is not right!

I have other stories of healing with the support from acupuncture, chiropractor and other treatment professionals. They need to be included in all insurance programs. They provide important primary care services for many individuals.

The CCO proposal appears to be a discriminatory document and I ask that changes be made to include all licensed professional health care services. This is vitally important is the CCO becomes a resource and model for a comprehensive health care delivery system.