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This week's most
popular articles

California Health Plan To Award \$31M in Performance Bonuses

Blue Shield of California on Monday announced that it is awarding \$31 million in bonuses to California physician groups and independent practice associations as part of a pay-for-performance program that rewards quality health care, including IT use, *Healthcare IT News* reports.

About half of the payments are part of the Integrated Healthcare Association pay-for-performance program that rewards providers for higher quality services in areas such as clinical care, patient experience and IT use.

Blue Shield said it used the IHA standards to track physician organization performance on clinical factors, such as the immunization status of children in their care, control of HbA1c levels for patients with diabetes and use of appropriate medications by asthma patients.

IHA's tracking found that medical groups that met the standard for IT use demonstrated significant improvement in clinical results. There was an average 18 point difference between clinical scores for groups that use IT effectively and those that do not, according to IHA.

IHA recently announced statewide results showing that efforts by Blue Shield and other health plans to reward performance, particularly with the use of IT, have paid off in terms of better care.

Seven participating insurers participate in IHA:

- Aetna;
- Blue Cross of California;
- Blue Shield of California;
- Cigna;
- Health Net of California;
- PacifiCare; and
- Western Health Advantage (Pizzi, *Healthcare IT News*, 8/14).