

# Beaumont ACO

A Physician/Health System Partnership



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## Message from the CEO

Belal Abdallah, M.D., CEO and Board Chairman, Beaumont ACO

Dear Beaumont ACO members and all staff,

During these uncertain times with the COVID-19 pandemic, my thoughts and prayers are with all of you and your loved ones, and I sincerely hope that you are keeping yourselves safe and healthy. Since the COVID-19 pandemic arrived in Michigan on March 10, our first goal at the Beaumont ACO has been to keep you – all of us – safe and healthy and able to continue to assist and educate our patients on staying safe and healthy.

Our first response was to go out and secure N95 masks for all our front line physicians as well as our ACO staff after we quickly realized that there was a severe shortage in the United States. We were able to secure 30,000 KN95 masks (Chinese version of N95 masks by an American company) for distribution to our participating member physicians in our Physician Group Incentive Program (PGIP) and Medicare Shared Savings Program (MSSP) and paid for them from a grant for these programs. We were also able to secure an additional 20,000 KN95 masks for sale to other members of the Beaumont ACO. These masks were distributed to our members as quickly as they were received from the manufacturer and were gratefully received by physicians and their staff.

We also began working closely with individuals from Beaumont Health Managed Care Contracting to secure third-party payer billing and reimbursement changes to accommodate the use of telehealth (i.e. the virtual office visit). Most third-party plans have loosened their requirements for the billing of telehealth services in a positive response to this overwhelming pandemic. We are routinely updating specific third-party policy changes regarding telehealth billing and reimbursement on our Beaumont ACO website at [www.beaumont-aco.org](http://www.beaumont-aco.org). I encourage you to investigate this safe and effective alternative for maintaining patient care.

Our suite in the Beaumont Service Center is open for business, but we have asked employees to work from their virtual offices until the Executive Order from the governor's office has been lifted or lapsed. Although we have encountered some inconveniences associated with the "remote experience," business as usual continues in large part.

I have also asked one of our Infectious Disease specialists to give us the most current update for COVID-19 treatment in our local market. Please read it in this newsletter. I encourage all of you to stay abreast of the current information available from the Center for Disease Control and the daily updates provided by Beaumont Health (available via your Beaumont e-mail). These sources tend to provide you with current observations and trends in COVID-19

behavior. This information can prove extremely valuable in keeping yourself, your family and your patients safe and healthy during such a difficult time. Stay safe and stay healthy.

Dr. Belal Abdallah  
CEO & Board Chairman  
Beaumont ACO