

## State health plans offer good options

The Globe report on payments to medical providers missed a key point when it comes to payment of doctors' claims in Massachusetts ("Insurers ranked on payment records," May 28).

The study of payers in Massachusetts actually showed that Network Health, one of that state's Medicaid Managed Care Organizations, or MMCOs, was second among Massachusetts health plans in overall rank. Network Health not only topped the list of MMCOs in terms of claims management efficiency and provider payment processes, it maintained the lowest administrative expense ratio of any Massachusetts health plan according to the February 2009 Division of Health Care Finance and Policy key indicators.

This efficiency is a clear indication of the value Medicaid managed care brings to Massachusetts. Through rigorous management and continuous quality improvement, MMCOs like Network Health prove that public programs can use public resources wisely. In fact, it is our obligation to do so because MMCOs are tasked with administering insurance for most of the state's Medicaid recipients as well as for enrollees in the state's subsidized insurance program, Commonwealth Care.

As demand for MassHealth services increases in the present economy, it is critical that consumers and doctors understand that high-quality health plan options are available to them. Neither doctors nor members participating in state-subsidized insurance need feel they are second-class healthcare citizens.

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