

Alliance for Health Reform
Open Enrollment Preview: Checking the Vitals of the
Marketplaces

September 26, 2016 Sabrina Corlette, J.D.

Plan Participation

Forecast for 2017

- Insurer participation lower than 2016
- Aetna, United Healthcare, and Humana to reduce participation
- CO-OP failures; other smaller, regional plans are withdrawing
- An estimated 19% of enrollees will have just one choice of insurer



Stated Reasons for Withdrawing

- Sicker-than-expected enrollees
 - Lower-than-expected enrollment
 - SEP & grace period gaming?
- Inadequate compensation through 3Rs



Premium Changes

Forecast for 2017

- Average increases for silver-level plans: ~11.2%
- Net premium change for subsidy eligible relatively modest
 - -\$.09 for 100-200% FPL
 - \$1.75 for 200-300% FPL
 - \$5.99 for 300-400% FPL
- Averages mask wide variability

Source: McKinsey on Health Care, August 24, 2016



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Some Carriers are Making it Work

- Keys to success:
 - Marketing strategy target lowest income enrollees
 - Network design narrow networks
 - Utilization management

Bottom line: Some carriers doing well but many misjudged post-ACA non-group market



Policy Changes Needed

- 1. Boost Enrollment
- 2. Improve Affordability
- 3. Return to the Public Option?
- 4. Revisit the 3Rs
- 5. Address rural area challenges



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Thank you!

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