TO: Medical Providers  
FROM: Carol Tegas, Executive Director  
RE: DSRIP Patient Opt Out letters  
DATE: April 5, 2016

NYS Medicaid beneficiaries have recently received a letter from New York State Department of Health (NYS DOH) asking if they would like to “Opt Out” of the electronic information sharing associated with DSRIP. Many direct care providers are receiving inquiries from patients about the meaning of this letter and the purpose of DSRIP. The information below offers additional details about this process.

What is DSRIP? What is FLPPS?
The New York State Medicaid Redesign Team (MRT) has redirected Medicaid funds to projects that radically transform the Medicaid delivery system. These projects are part of the Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) program. DSRIP is a five year demonstration project (2015-2020) that incentivizes health care and community-based providers to form regional collaborations and implement innovative system transformation to better serve Medicaid and uninsured populations who often experience greater healthcare disparities. The overarching objective of DSRIP is to improve clinical outcomes and reduce avoidable ED use and hospital admissions by 25% over 5 years.

A Performing Provider System is a network of healthcare providers and community-based organizations that have agreed to work together to change the healthcare system in their region using the DSRIP program. The Finger Lakes Performing Provider System (FLPPS) is a partnership comprised of 19 hospitals, 6,700 healthcare providers and more than 600 healthcare and community-based organizations in a 13 county region (Allegany, Cayuga, Chemung, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne, Wyoming and Yates counties). Together, FLPPS is working to provide better healthcare access and care coordination to over 400,000 Medicaid members and uninsured individuals in our region. (Learn more about FLPPS at www.flpps.org)

Easier Access, Coordinated Care
As a part of DSRIP, our region is working to create an Integrated Delivery System (IDS) of healthcare and community-based organizations. The purpose of the IDS is to assist providers in understanding the complete needs of a patient and their current healthcare utilizations. This IDS will be supported by advanced Heath Information Technology to gather and share health information across our FLPPS network in a secure and protected environment.

Sharing Patient Information
There are approximately 40 different types of electronic health records and care coordination platforms functioning throughout our region. Part of the DSRIP transformation will include connecting these electronic systems to provide true comprehensive patient-centered care. This interoperability will help us to better understand all of the resources accessed by a patient, including services that support their social determinants of health. The extent of clinical care integration with community-
Based organizations is still being decided, however our providers understand variables such as reliable transportation and stable housing are essential to overall health. Each individual’s health information will remain confidential and cannot be shared beyond those who have consented to view and access this information.

**What Opt Out means**

The current Opt Out option gives individuals the opportunity to elect not to share their patient information across this network. If individuals choose to Opt Out, they will not be able to benefit from this improved continuum of care and enhanced care coordination. The initial idea of sharing patient information may cause anxiety and mistrust among Medicaid members resulting in their election to Opt Out without understanding the future benefit to them. It is important for each medical provider and supportive care provider to understand this process and encourage patients to participate.

The first set of Opt Out letters was mailed in October 2015, a second set of letters was mailed in February 2016. Medicaid beneficiaries are automatically enrolled unless they Opt Out by mail or by calling the Medicaid Call Center. The individual’s choice to participate or Opt Out will not impact their Medicaid benefits. If they choose to Opt Out, there is currently no process to Opt-Back-In at a later date.

Thank you for taking time to further understand this process. If you have questions or would like more information about DSRIP, FLPPS or the Opt Out process, please contact the FLPPS office at 585.239.9300 or info@flpps.org.