

## UPMC Health System and Highmark enter into a 10-year Agreement

On Monday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, Attorney General Josh Shapiro announced that he was successful in brokering a 10-year agreement between UPMC Health System and Highmark that offers what Shapiro called "a global agreement" to allow Highmark subscribers access to UPMC. **The new agreement is set to go into effect on July 1, 2019.**

Many details are still to come over the next few weeks as the terms are being finalized. As it appears, Highmark members will have in-network access to **ALL** UPMC Health System facilities and practitioners not just the specialty facilities referenced previously (i.e., Hillman Cancer Center, UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh), depending on the plan they have. **PLEASE NOTE: if you have Highmark medical insurance through the MBS Trust, you and your enrolled dependents, if applicable, will have in-network access to ALL the UPMC facilities, doctors, and hospitals effective July 1, 2019.**

This was an unexpected announcement and likely explains the silence from Shapiro after last week's court ruling that the consent decrees could not be extended beyond June 30<sup>th</sup>. This is a totally separate contract entered into by Highmark and UPMC. Most importantly, patients of Western Pennsylvania will now have real choice among two world class health care systems.

We wanted to share the news with you quickly, as this may impact your health care decisions beginning next week. We know you probably have many questions. We are gathering information as Highmark and UPMC work through the details of their agreement. We will provide you with a detailed communication, including Frequently Asked Questions, as soon as those details are available. In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns you may contact the number on the back of your medical ID card – **Highmark Member Services (1-800-241-5704)** or **UPMC Health Plan Member Services (1-888-876-2756)**.