

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

According to the Pittsburgh Business Times today, 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), if their health plan product includes UPMC in their health care provider network.

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 30th. 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 will have a major impact on all of our members. We will provide additional details, including an announcement that you can provide to your employees, as soon as we have more information.