

WV Association of Optometric Physicians Announces Population Eye Health Initiative

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CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- The West Virginia Association of Optometric Physicians (WVAOP) announces a strategic partnership with the West Virginia Eye Collaborative. This partnership will be managed by Coherent Eye Care.

With a keen focus on improving quality, value and access of care, the WV Eye Collaborative and its eye physicians will be strategically positioned to partner with health systems, health plans, and accountable care organizations. The two groups are building a statewide clinically integrated eye care network to deliver comprehensive eye care services and coordinate such care with primary care physicians.

“Creating pathways to better manage and improve the health of patients with chronic diseases is critical,” says Jim Brocato, Coherent’s President and CEO. “This partnership will help the WVAOP take a major step forward in helping its members prepare for the future shift from fee-for-service to value-based care. A key part of this initiative includes providing population health services with the goal of achieving the Quadruple AIM in eye health: improving the patient experience, improving the health of the populations we serve, reducing per capita costs, and improved clinician experience.”

More than 1 in 10 West Virginia adults have diabetes (15%), which ranks West Virginia as the state with the largest diabetes population nationally. It is estimated that another 11% of West Virginians have pre-diabetes. “Doctors of optometry are doing their part,” says Dr. Mark Cinalli, President of the WV Association of Optometric Physicians. Many people learn about their diabetes through a dilated, comprehensive eye examination from their doctor of optometry. In 2016, for instance, optometrists diagnosed more than 320,000 cases of diabetic retinopathy in patients who did not know they had diabetes. Diabetes is a leading cause of blindness in working-age adults.

Dr. Cinalli adds, “We expect this relationship to have a significant improvement on the quality of care and much-needed access for the patients of West Virginia with chronic eye diseases such as diabetic retinopathy, macular degeneration, and glaucoma.”

For more information regarding this collaborative please contact:

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Primary Care Providers may visit <https://www.wvaop.org/decc.php> for more information.

About West Virginia Association Optometric Physicians:

The purpose of the WV Association of Optometric Physicians (WVAOP) is to meet the vision and eye care needs of the citizens of West Virginia. This purpose is accomplished by providing advanced continuing education, promoting the highest ethical standards, and advocating for the profession of Optometry. WVAOP represents 180 optometrists throughout the state of West Virginia.

Doctors of Optometry are independent primary health care providers who examine, diagnose, treat, and manage diseases and disorders of the visual system, the eye, and associated structures, as well as diagnose related systemic conditions.

Website: www.wvaop.org

Facebook: Find the WVAOP on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/WVAOP>.

About West Virginia Eye Collaborative:

The WV Eye Collaborative's goal is to eliminate preventable blindness by delivering value-based comprehensive eye care while integrating population eye health services. In partnership with optometry, ophthalmology, and primary care physicians, we are building a statewide, patient-centric, clinically integrated eye care network. By leveraging the structure of a clinically integrated network, we can incorporate important quality initiatives which are designed to improve the patient experience, clinical outcomes, and reduced cost of care. The WV Eye Collaborative is managed by Coherent Eye Care.

About Coherent Eye Care, LLC (Coherent):

Coherent works with primary care groups, Medicare Advantage Plans, and Accountable Care Organizations to provide end-to-end population health management programs to improve the health of patients with chronic diseases, such as diabetic retinopathy, age-related macular degeneration, and glaucoma. Our goal is to close the diagnosis and treatment gaps for treatable vision loss by improving patient engagement and education with eye care and primary care providers. Coherent physicians and Clinically Integrated Eyecare Networks are strategically positioned to help health systems, health plans, and Accountable Care Organizations implement patient-centric, data-driven clinical pathways designed to ensure and predict optimal clinical outcomes and cost-of-care, while also improving HEDIS quality measure performance.

Website: www.coherenteyecare.com