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Letters to the Editor  
Buffalo Business First  
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To the Editor:

It's not surprising that the results of the recent survey by the Medical Society of the State of New York may support the organization's own agenda – railing against managed care plans – but they don't support the facts.

Buffalo Business First reported the MSSNY survey – a survey of doctors not the actual patients -- found many patients are facing high deductibles that impose significant out-of-pocket costs before insurance coverage kicks in. In fact, according to the latest enrollment report from the New York State of Health (NYSOH), New York's Official Health Plan Marketplace, 55 percent of New Yorkers enrolled in a qualified health plan (QHP) are "enrolled in standard and non-standard QHPs with low deductibles (defined as \$600 or less) or no deductible." Moreover, that report shows nearly 75 percent of QHP enrollees receive subsidies, either in the form of premium tax credits, cost-sharing assistance or both, that help further reduce the cost of coverage.

MSSNY's survey also took aim at "narrow networks" and said patients have difficulty getting information about which plans doctors are participating with. The move to narrower networks serves patients by ensuring providers meet quality and effectiveness standards while preserving affordability. As for accessing information, under the Affordable Care Act and through the NYSOH portal, consumers have more information than ever before. They can shop for plans, comparing premiums, provider networks, drug formularies, and get have assistance in doing so.

Health plans are committed to working to ensure New Yorkers have access to affordable quality health care. We'd welcome MSSNY to join in that effort.

Sincerely,

  
Paul F. Macielak  
President & CEO  
New York Health Plan Association

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