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Brackbill, Robert

From: barbifamily@verizon.net
Sent: Monday, April 09, 2012 11:37 AM
To: Brackbill, Robert
Cc: dwhite@pa.sn.gov
Subject: Highmark affiliation with West Penn Allegheny Health system

Dear Mr. Brackbill,

I am writing to express my concerns with the Highmark plan to affiliate with West Penn Allegheny Health System. I am a Highmark member and currently have access to any health facility of my choice. I do have Doctors in both the UPCM network and Highmark. If the merger goes through as planned by Highmark, my specialists that I see will no longer be part of my network. I recently had surgery by one of the best Orthopedic drs in the tri state and he is affiliated with UPMC. Within the next year, I will need more surgery and unfortunately if this merger is approved, I would need to find a new specialist. I also deal with celiac disease and need to be monitored by a gastroenterologist and she too is affiliated with UPMC. What are consumers to do? Yes I can still go to those doctors, but they will not be in my network and I will be forced to pay huge differences. That is a major concern to any consumer. With the rising cost of health care, increased life expectancy and the rate of inflation, how can those on fixed income be forced to choose giving up a doctor that knows their health history and they have chosen for health care. My mother is 93 years old and I would not want to be in the position of having to find a new doctor for her at her age.

This is a business decision and is not based on what is good for consumers or health care providers. Please take these comments into consideration and make a decision based on what is good for the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,
Cindy Barbi
350 Turner Drive
Blairsville, Pa. 15717
724-549-2776

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