Fulfilling the Promise of Apple Health for Kids:
Payment Reform Proposals to Achieve the Triple Aim

Washington State Chapter – American Academy of Pediatrics
Our Vision for Washington’s Children

• Every child is healthy and able to succeed in learning
• Every child has a medical home that meets national standards
• Our state has achieved the Triple Aim of improving care, controlling costs, and improving health
Apple Health for Kids is critical to achieving the vision

• Provides coverage for 46% of Washington’s 1.7 million children and youth.
Apple Health for Kids is still a work in progress

- 100,000 children are still uninsured
- Key preventive services aren’t adequately covered
- Apple Health pays less than 60 cents on the dollar compared to Uniform Medical Plan for children of State employees
- Some providers cannot afford to care for additional Apple Health patients, limiting access
• The State’s system for paying providers hasn’t kept pace with new technology and best practices in care management

• The system lacks tools to help practices achieve national medical home standards
Challenge #1: 100,000 children still are uninsured

Goal: Cover all kids

Strategies:
• Continue to streamline enrollment
• Implement Express Lane eligibility
• Simplify renewals
• Provide reliable funding for outreach to hard-to-reach families
• Integrate these activities with ACA outreach
Challenge #2: Key preventive services aren’t adequately covered

Goal: Create a payment system that *rewards* prevention

Strategies:
• Fully incorporate Bright Futures recommendations in payment systems for all State programs
• Incorporate Bright Futures in Benchmark Plan for the Health Exchange
• Track and reward performance
Challenge #3: Inadequate provider rates reduce access

Goal: Achieve rate parity among State programs

Strategies:
• Implement ACA primary care rate increases
• Increase Apple Health provider rates to match Uniform Medical Plan
• Use State’s full purchasing power in negotiating with health plans
Challenge #4: Keeping pace with new technology and care management

Goal: Adjust payment system to reward best practices

Strategy: Update payment structure as needed to reflect evidence-based changes in health care
Challenge #5: Bringing more practices to national standards for medical homes

Goal: Increase number of practices meeting national standards by ___% by 2016

Strategies:
• Provide higher rates for practices that meet national standards
• Implement “glide path” system to provide incentives for meeting benchmarks along the way to certification