Sacramento, CA – As the COVID-19 pandemic begins to ease, Fierce Healthcare has reported on a new study by Kaufman Hall finding that U.S. physician groups are seeing signs of financial recovery as their performance metrics return to near pre-pandemic levels in the first quarter of 2021. The new study suggests an end to the volatility driven by COVID-19 that hit physician practices last year, according to Fierce Healthcare.

California’s health plans are urging California lawmakers to consider this reality before supporting legislative efforts to force health plans to divert critical premium dollars from patient care to providers’ pockets without any demonstrated need.

Here are some key excerpts from the Fierce Healthcare article, which highlights how physician groups are seeing a return to normal in terms of finances and revenues:

“The first-quarter results show positive signs of stabilization for the physician groups across the country after many months of turmoil from COVID-19,” said Kaufman Hall managing director Matthew Bates in a statement...

“...Employed physician groups nationwide saw increases in productivity, revenues and compensation in the first quarter of 2021 compared to the same period in 2020, due in part to rising patient visits...

“...Physician compensation also was close to early 2020 performance, with physician compensation per full-time equivalent (FTE) at $332,187 in the first quarter of 2021...

“...Increasing patient visits contributed to an increase in physician productivity, with physician work relative value units (wRVUs) per FTE up 3.6% from the first quarter of 2020 to the same period this year...
“...Net revenue per physician FTE, including advanced practice providers, climbed 9.4% to $575,113 in the first quarter...

“...Clinical and front-office productivity has largely returned to pre-COVID levels as physician productivity has increased.”

Read the full article here

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