



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY**

626 8th Avenue, SE • P.O. Box 45502 • Olympia, Washington 98504-5502

October 14, 2014

Steve Hill, Chair, Bree Collaborative  
Foundation for Health Care Quality  
705 Second Avenue, Suite 410  
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Mr. Hill:

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Steve".

**SUBJECT: Lumbar Fusion Bundle, and Elective Lumbar Fusion "Warranty"**

Thank you and the Bree Collaborative for the *Lumbar Fusion Surgical Bundle, and Elective Lumbar Fusion Warranty* work. Per Bree legislation I directed my staff to conduct an interagency review of the bundle and warranty work. I have reviewed the report and endorse these recommendations from the Bree Collaborative. Innovative purchasing models like this hold promise for insurers and purchasers. This model represents a method of contracting for quality outcomes that incentivizes the highest quality of care for patients.

Development of the Accountable Payment Models workgroup and the work produced by the Collaborative as a result is innovative and important. As Washington moves ahead to broadly influence and lead reform of our payment systems and care delivery models, work like the *Bundle* and contracting to share accountability for high quality patient outcomes will transform the health care environment. We are currently working to use the initial bundle work developed by the Collaborative. Our aim is to incorporate and model bundled surgical care purchasing in contracts for 2016.

I continue to be inspired by the work of the Bree Collaborative and the efforts of staff from the Foundation for Health Care Quality and the state agencies. I am also impressed by the growing community participation evidenced by the volume participation from public commenters. I applaud your efforts to provide accessible, transparent communications and processes in the development of Collaborative recommendations. HCA will continue to work closely with you, your staff, and the Bree Collaborative as a whole to enhance implementation and dissemination opportunities for these recommendations.

Should you have questions for concerns, please contact me by phone at 360-725-1523 or via email at [dorothy.teeter@hca.wa.gov](mailto:dorothy.teeter@hca.wa.gov).

Thank you and the Bree Collaborative members for you continued efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Dorothy F. Teeter".

Dorothy F. Teeter, MHA  
Director