UMHS has been at the national forefront of one of the most important trends in medicine: population health. This quest to simultaneously achieve better quality of care for each patient, better health for entire populations & lower health care costs is crucial to our nation’s future.

- **In 2005**, we signed on as one of 10 participants in a nationwide Medicare demonstration project -- the prototype for the Accountable Care Organization (ACO) movement.
  - Through the 5-year Physician Group Practice demo, we saved the Medicare system more than $22 million while also meeting or exceeding quality benchmarks.
  - We innovated new ways to improve care & contain costs — including a Complex Care Management Program to coordinate care for patients with the greatest needs.
  - Only one other group in the project achieved both cost and quality goals.
  - According to an independent analysis, we made great progress in care and costs for “dual eligible” patients covered by both Medicare and Medicaid – addressing a key challenge in health care improvement.
- **In 2010**, we helped launch a statewide patient-centered medical home effort involving more than 500 primary care practices and 1,800 physicians.
  - We manage the project, called MiPCT, for the Michigan Dept. of Community Health.
- **In 2012**, we launched one of the nation’s first ACOs under Medicare’s Pioneer program, to improve health and contain costs for more than 25,000 Medicare participants.
  - At launch, it included the 1,700+ physicians of our Medical School’s Faculty Group Practice and dozens of physicians at the IHA physician group.
  - In 2013, we added more physicians, including the nonprofit Packard Health Clinic, for a total of over 2,000.
  - First-year results show a cost savings of 0.3 percent and high achievement of quality measures.
- **In 2013**, we spearheaded the creation of the Physician Organization of Michigan ACO, or POM ACO, under the Medicare Shared Savings Program.
  - At launch, it involved more than 1,800 physicians from 9 physician groups across lower Michigan, caring for more than 81,000 traditional Medicare beneficiaries.
- **In 2014**, we moved all U-M physicians & more than 900 other U-M Health System providers into POM ACO, along with Pioneer ACO partners & additional physicians from POM ACO participating groups & MidMichigan Health.
  - With 5,700 providers from 12 physician groups in 22 Michigan counties & more than 120,000 Medicare beneficiaries, it’s now one of the largest ACOs in the U.S.

In a Jan. 2, 2013 letter to the Journal of the American Medical Association, Dartmouth researchers wrote:

“If all institutions behaved like the University of Michigan under the system of ACOs, the potential savings would be enormous.”