

Thomas L. Simmer, MD

**Sr. Vice President, Health Care Value & Provider Affiliation
& Chief Medical Officer
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan**

Dr. Simmer is responsible for reimbursement to more than 55,000 clinicians throughout the State of Michigan. Thirty-eight thousand physicians participate in Blue Cross Traditional and PPO plans. He is responsible for medical policy, professional payment policies and programs to improve the quality, cost, and access to medical services. Under his leadership BCBSM has implemented physician incentive programs to promote collaborative improvement programs for more consistent care for persons with chronic illness and more cost effective prescribing patterns. Dr. Simmer is responsible for a well-designed collaborative partnership with physician organizations designed to achieve meaningful quality improvement while reducing costs. He has provided leadership to the Michigan Quality Improvement Consortium (MQIC) which works with Health Plan Medical Directors across Michigan to create and facilitate implementation of evidence-based guidelines. In addition, Dr. Simmer has rolled out a provider Web site for easier accessibility to find member information faster. He has enhanced the Physician Liaison to assist specialty groups as they work with BCBSM to resolve individual issues, claims processing or patient benefits. Importantly, Dr. Simmer established collaborative improvement initiatives under the leadership of physician leaders who bring together many clinicians and health care organizations to reduce complications of procedures and improve medical outcomes. Dr. Simmer continues to build positive relationships between medical societies and physicians across Michigan.

Prior to joining the Blues, Dr. Simmer served as Vice President of Health and Medical Affairs and Medical Director for Health Alliance Plan. He also served as Associate Program Director for the Internal Medicine Residency Program at Henry Ford Hospital and was the recipient of several Distinguished Service Awards. He graduated from the Wayne State University School of Medicine and earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan. Dr. Simmer is a member of the Michigan State Medical Society and a Fellow of the American College of Physicians.