

Maine Patient Centered Medical Home Pilot Update – January 2009

The Patient Centered Medical Home offers an exciting and promising approach to transforming healthcare as it addresses both the practice transformation and the payment reform required to needed to improve care. The Dirigo Health Agency's Maine Quality Forum, *Quality Counts*, and the Maine Health Management Coalition are convening a multi-stakeholder effort to develop, implement, and evaluate the Maine Pilot of the Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH) as the first step in achieving statewide implementation of a PCMH model. The ultimate goal of this effort is to sustain and revitalize primary care both to improve health outcomes for all Maine people and to reduce overall healthcare costs.

Following an initial 6-month planning period, the conveners are now launching a 3-year Pilot to implement the PCMH model with 10 –20 primary care practices from across the state, with a call for interested practices to submit applications by February 28, 2009. Practices wishing to participate in the PCMH Pilot will need to be able to demonstrate structures and processes consistent with the medical home model, and will need to commit to targeted quality improvement and waste-reduction initiatives that demonstrate the value of the enhanced payment model. Practices will be selected for participation by mid-March, and following a 6-month “ramp-up” period, are expected to be active in the Pilot by fall 2009.

Practices interested in applying for participation in the Pilot should first complete a free, web-based practice self-assessment developed by the AAFP's “TransforMED” initiative, the Medical Home-IQ (MHIQ). The MHIQ is available at www.transformed.com/MHIQ (click on the “Medical Home IQ” link to start the assessment). Interested sites must achieve an MHIQ score consistent with the ability to achieve a “Level 1” or higher score on the NCQA Physician Practice Connection – Patient Centered Medical Home (NCQA PPC-PCMH) tool. Practices selected for participation in the Pilot will be required to achieve Level 1 NCQA PPC-PCMH designation within six months of being selected. Practices that have successfully completed the MHIQ tool should complete the online Maine PCMH Pilot application by February 28, available at http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=mF9e1z_2bssYQ6ucmIZzVLwg_3d_3d.

Anthem BCBS, Aetna, CIGNA, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, and MaineCare have participated in the planning of the Pilot, and have committed to working with Pilot practices to provide alternative payment for primary care that recognizes the infrastructure and system investments needed to deliver care in accordance with the PCMH model and rewards practices for demonstrating high quality and efficient care. The Pilot will be evaluated using a comprehensive approach that includes nationally recognized measures of quality, efficiency, and patient-centered measures of care that reflect the six aims of quality care identified by the Institute of Medicine (i.e. safe, effective, timely, efficient, equitable, and patient-centered care).

Planning and implementation of the Pilot is supported by contributions from the Maine Quality Forum, the Maine Health Management Coalition, Martin's Point Health Care, the Maine Health Access Foundation, and Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield. A multi-stakeholder PCMH Working Group provides guidance and direction for the Pilot.

Look for regular updates on the PCMH Pilot in e-mails and newsletters from the Maine Medical Association, the Maine Osteopathic Association, Maine Academy of Family Physicians, Maine Chapter of the American College of Physicians and Maine Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, or check the “News” and “Resource Library” sections of the *Quality Counts* website at www.mainequalitycounts.org.