CMS SIM Model Testing Award Background

- CMS SIM initiatives were announced in February 2013 to implement and test State Health Care Innovation Plans in six states.
- With the combined support of over $250 million, these Model Testing Award states are putting in place strategies to transform a state’s health care delivery system through multi-payer payment reform and additional state initiatives.
- Participating states have 42 months to implement and test their plans with continued funding contingent on the state’s performance and progress in meeting their goals.

Summary of SIM Testing Award in Maine

Through the SIM grant, Maine is focusing on five key work areas: payment reform; delivery system reform; data analytics and reporting; health information technology; and consumer engagement. Maine is implementing multi-payer Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) that encourage performance based payment and public reporting of quality benchmarks. Maine is also striving to enhance their primary care model by integrating primary care, behavioral health, public health, and long-term care. As part of its behavioral health integration strategy, Maine plans to implement behavioral health homes focusing on adults with Serious Mental Illness and children with Serious Emotional Disturbance. Within SIM, Maine has several workforce initiatives including support for training all medical home and health home practices that serve behavioral health patients and developmentally disabled and autistic children and adults. Maine also plans to use SIM as an opportunity to improve the health of its pediatric population by collaborating with its Improving Health Outcomes for Children (IHOC) program. Through IHOC, Maine is using quality measures and health information technology to improve health outcomes for Medicaid and CHIP children.

Implications for Pediatrics

**Impact on Children:**
- Children are included as part of the larger population that will be affected by reforms including multi-payer ACOs.
- Opportunities to improve children’s behavioral health will be offered through implementing the Medicaid Behavioral Health Homes initiative that focuses on children with Serious Emotional Disturbance and adults with Serious Mental Illness.

**Impact on Participating Providers:**
- Pediatric practices have an opportunity to participate in Medicaid health homes initiative, providing enhanced payments and quality improvement support to participating practices.
- Pediatric sites will have access to trainings on screening for patients with developmental delays including autism spectrum disorder; there is also an intention to offer providers training on improving quality of care for patients with developmental and intellectual disabilities.
- SIM will support increased clinical/claims data sharing capabilities, and a potential multi-payer core set of metrics that could lead to more alignment between commercial health plans, ACOs, and Medicaid.
- HIT efforts will include initiatives such as the Improving Health Outcomes for Children (IHOC) program. IHOC currently uses quality measures and technological advances to guide our work and improve health outcomes for Medicaid/CHIP children.
- Under the SIM initiative, there is a goal to move toward alternative, value-based payment models, including ACO models; new payment methods are likely to include new non-visit-based payments (e.g. health homes payments) for shared savings.

For more information on the CMS SIM testing award in Maine, contact Randal Chenard, SIM Director, at randal.chenard@maine.gov.