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 Massachusetts

Massachusetts intends to use the SIM grant to support their transition to a statewide multi-payer model with increased provider accountability. This will be accomplished through the expansion of Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) and patient-centered medical homes (PCMHs) with a shared savings/risk payment model that offers incentives based on quality metrics. As one of five investment areas, Massachusetts plans to support increased integration of primary care with community resources. Massachusetts specifically plans to increase access to pediatric behavioral health consultation by enhancing their Massachusetts Child Psychiatry Access Project (MCPAP). MCPAP provides psychiatric consultations to primary care providers and assists with referrals to community services when necessary. Currently, 95% of Massachusetts’ children see a pediatrician who utilizes MCPAP services. With SIM funding, Massachusetts plans to improve MCPAP’s response time, real-time access to psychiatrists by phone, and available resources for adolescent substance abuse care.

Implications for Pediatrics

Impact on Children:
- Focus of plan is on expanding ACOs and PCMHs affecting patients of all ages, including children in Medicaid/CHIP.
- Children’s mental health services will be enhanced through the Massachusetts Child Psychiatry Access Project (MCPAP). MCPAP currently supports mental health services for children by providing telephone-based psychiatric consultations to pediatricians and assisting with referrals to community services. Under the SIM grant, the project will be expanded to allow real-time access to psychiatrists via telephone and to enhance services for adolescents with substance abuse.

Impact on Participating Providers:
- Pediatricians are participating in the Primary Care Payment Reform (PCPR) shared savings/risk payment model with incentive payments based on quality measures.
- This award plans to leverage pediatric quality measures piloted in the CHIPRA Quality Demonstration Grant. Metrics developed under SIM will focus on both adults and pediatrics, specifically in the areas of behavioral health, access to care, and care coordination.

For more information on the CMS SIM testing award in Massachusetts, contact Ann Hwang, SIM Project Director, at ann.hwang@state.ma.us.

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