

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 Vermont

Through its SIM grant, Vermont plans to align clinical specialists with advanced primary care practices, implement payment methodologies to coordinate with a care management model for Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries, and accelerate a learning infrastructure to support the state's delivery system. These goals will be achieved by expanding and testing new payment methods including the expansion of Medicare Shared Savings Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) to include Medicaid and commercial payers; the use of bundled payment methods to incentivize coordination and evidence-based practices; and pay-for-performance models to improve the quality of care providers deliver.

Implications for Pediatrics

Impact on Children:

- The Vermont Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics has worked to expand Community Health Teams, originally an adult model, to the pediatric population. This model works to promote aspects of family-centered medical homes such as effective care coordination. Although the SIM grant currently does not support this initiative, the chapter is actively engaged in advocating for its inclusion within the SIM award.

Impact on Participating Providers:

- Vermont aims to improve performance on pediatric measures including the proportion of appropriate assessments, well-child visits, and adolescent well-care visits.
- Vermont awarded eight primary care practices with a total of \$2.6 million to assist with making transformations necessary to participate in the model. Five technical assistance vendors have been contracted to work with the primary care practices. Work will begin in the third quarter of 2014.
- Under the expanded shared savings ACO model, providers will be reimbursed with alternative payment methodologies such as bundled payments and pay for performance programs.

For more information on the CMS SIM testing award in Vermont, contact Georgia Maheras, SIM Project Director, at Georgia.maheras@state.vt.us.



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