

Summary of Proposed Initiatives Impacting Pediatrics Populations and Providers in Connecticut's State Innovation Model Testing Application

CMS SIM Round 2 Testing Awards Background

- In December 2014, 11 states were announced as recipients of Round Two of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) State Innovation Model (SIM) Test Awards, utilized to test State Health Care Innovation Plans.
- With the combined support of \$622 million, states awarded Model Test funds are putting strategies in place to transform health care delivery systems primarily through multi-payer payment reform.
- The Round Two SIM Model Test Awards have a more explicit emphasis on improving population health in specific areas such as prevention, health equity, and healthy behaviors.
- Participating states have 48 months to implement and test their models.

Summary of SIM Testing Award in Connecticut

Connecticut will receive up to \$45 million to implement and test its State Health Care Innovation Plan. Through its SIM award, Connecticut plans to develop a model that fosters provider accountability, increased consumer engagement, and improved quality of care. Connecticut has outlined several key goals for its SIM model:

1. Develop a comprehensive plan for improving population health
2. Transform the state health care delivery system with a focus on integrating primary care and community care
3. Reform payment methodologies to implement value-based payment and insurance design
4. Align payers on common measures including quality, health equity, and patient experience

Implications for Pediatrics

Impact on children:

- The SIM model will build on a number of existing state initiatives including the State Health Improvement Plan ([Healthy Connecticut 2020](#)) led by the Connecticut Health Improvement Coalition. The coalition is comprised of a diverse partnership of state and local agencies including the Connecticut Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (CTAAP). Healthy Connecticut 2020 includes a focus on optimizing the health and well-being of women, infants and children.
- Early in the project, the state will reconvene the health systems workgroup from the Healthy Connecticut 2020 planning coalition to form the Population Health Council. The Council will identify additional state health priorities relevant to the Model Test including priorities related to child wellness.
- A major focus of Connecticut's program is to align quality measures across payers. One proposed measure addresses the number of well-child visits with the goal of increasing visits from the baseline 62.8 % to 69.1 % by 2020.
- The state will consider forming two sustainable primary population health-enabling structures: Health Enhancement Communities (HECs) and Prevention Services Centers (PSCs). PSCs are intended to be community-based entities that provide evidence-based community preventive services. HECs, located in areas facing the greatest disparities, would promote coordination and accountability across organizations including schools, local public health departments, nonprofits, housing authorities, and others.

Impact on Participating Providers:

Given that the central component of Connecticut's plan focuses on creating a robust primary care system, the state will implement several targeted interventions to spur and support practice transformation.

- As part of the transition towards value-based payments, advanced networks and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) will be able to participate in a Medicaid Quality Improvement and Shared Savings Program (QISSP). Provider payments will be based on performance on a set of measures for access, quality, care experience, health equity, and cost.
- Providers must apply to participate through a competitive process that will include selection criteria such as capacity to serve Medicaid beneficiaries, commitment to invest in enhanced data analytics and quality improvement, and ability to improve clinical and community integration. Final selection criteria will be determined through a stakeholder engagement and design process.
- Providers selected to participate in the QISSP will receive support through the Community and Clinical Integration Program (CCIP) with an opportunity for providers to compete for additional Innovation Awards, to be administered by the state.
- Connecticut will also build off its existing [Glide Path](#) program to develop a multi-payer Advanced Medical Home Glide Path program and provide support for practices transforming into medical homes.

For more information on the CMS SIM Model Test Award in Connecticut, contact Mark Schaefer, SIM Project Lead, at mark.schaefer@ct.gov.



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