



New Primary Care Spend Standard Guidance Recommendations Tool

Introduction

The State of Rhode Island Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner (OHIC) has requested that its Health Insurance Advisory Council (HIAC) provide input to the office as it develops new primary care spend standard guidance for commercial health insurers that will apply to 2013 and 2014. OHIC is providing this tool to assist HIAC in making recommendations to OHIC.

At the outset of the Affordability Standards, HIAC identified evaluation metrics for the primary care spend standard. These were as follows:

- **Reduced** fully-insured medical expense trend
- **Reduced** incidence of inpatient hospitalization for ambulatory care sensitive conditions
- **Reduced** incidence of emergency room visits for ambulatory care sensitive conditions
- **Increased** primary care physician supply
- **Increased** primary care physician level of satisfaction

As HIAC moves to make recommendations to OHIC, HIAC's views on which categories of primary care spending have the greatest potential to make a positive impact on these above metrics will be important to consider.

New Primary Care Spend Standard Guidance Decision Tool

The table below lists major primary care spending categories—consistent with previous OHIC primary care spend standard guidance—and then provides three options for HIAC to consider in making recommendations to OHIC concerning how the different spending categories should be treated in new guidance:

1. **Require** insurers to prioritize spending in a given category under the primary care spend standard, making this spending a top priority
2. **Allow** insurers to engage in spending in a given category and count it toward primary care spend standard compliance, making this spending a secondary priority

3. Prohibit insurers from counting spending in a given category toward primary care spend standard compliance, excluding this spending from being a priority

HIAC's view on which option (require, allow, or prohibit) should apply to each spending category is being solicited by OHIC.

New Primary Care Spend Standard Guidance Decision Table

Primary Care Spending Category	Definition	Require (Top Priority) Allow (Secondary Priority) Prohibit (Exclusion)
1. Rhode Island Chronic Care Sustainability Initiative	Spending on the Rhode Island Chronic Car Sustainability Initiative—a nationally recognized all-payer patient centered medical home pilot project (\$2.3 million already allocated for 2013 with upward revisions expected, represents 7.6% of non-fee for service primary care spending)	
2. CurrentCare	Spending on CurrentCare, Rhode Island's health information exchange—a secure electronic system which will allow doctors and other care givers immediate access to a patient's up-to-date health information in order to provide the best possible and most comprehensive care (\$2.3 million already allocated for 2013 with upward revisions expected, represents 7.7% of non-fee for service primary care spending)	
3. Patient-Centered Medical Home (Other)	Spending on proprietary patient-centered medical home initiatives	Require? Allow? Prohibit?
4. Incentive Payments to Providers	Spending on incentive payments to providers aimed at lowering costs and increasing quality by attaining mutually agreed-to and clearly documented performance levels	Require? Allow? Prohibit?
5. Compensation for Accountable Care Organizations	Spending on arrangements aimed at managing the full continuum of care while being accountable for the overall costs and quality of care for a defined population	Require? Allow? Prohibit?

Primary Care Spending Category	Definition	Require (Top Priority) Allow (Secondary Priority) Prohibit (Exclusion)
6. Provide Capacity Development in Preparation for Accountable Care Organizations	Spending on capacity directly linked to preparation for the implementation of arrangements aimed at managing the full continuum of care while being accountable for the overall costs and quality of care for a defined population	Require? Allow? Prohibit?
7. Electronic Medical Records Incentives	Spending on incentive payments to providers for structural changes at the practice related to electronic medical records and data reporting capacity from those electronic medical records	Require? Allow? Prohibit?
8. Loan Forgiveness	Spending on building primary care workforce capacity through loan forgiveness programs targeting new Rhode Island primary care physicians	Require? Allow? Prohibit?
9. Primary Care Physician Community Support Grants	Spending on grants to community organizations that demonstrably further lowering costs and increasing quality through support of primary care physicians	Require? Allow? Prohibit?
10. Fee for Service Payments	Spending on fee for service payments, including enhancements to fee schedules, to primary care physicians and primary care practices	Require? Allow? Prohibit?

Any HIAC recommendations offered in response to this tool will be taken into account as OHIC finalizes its guidance in the coming weeks. OHIC will also review its guidance with HIAC after it has been formally issued to the insurers.