State at a Glance: Illinois

Overview

In February 2010, the **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)** awarded grants to 10 States under a 5-year, $100 million effort to improve health care quality and delivery systems for children enrolled in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Funded by the **Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 (CHIPRA)**, the **Quality Demonstration Grant Program** aims to identify effective, replicable strategies for enhancing quality of care for children. Because some grantee States are partnering with other States, the grants will support the implementation and evaluation of quality improvement strategies for children in a total of 18 States under five broad categories.[1]

Illinois is working with **Florida**, one of the 10 grantees, in a two-State partnership to implement projects in four of the five grant categories:

- Showing how a core set of children's quality measures can be used to improve quality of care for children.
- Promoting the use of health information technology (IT) to enhance service quality and care coordination.
- Implementing a more comprehensive provider-based model of service delivery.
- Testing an approach to quality improvement of the State's own design.

Illinois's Objectives

Illinois will build on its existing cross-agency database to report the core set of children's quality measures and develop new State-specific measures. The State also will aim to ensure that ongoing health information exchange (HIE) and health IT efforts address children's health issues, and will collaborate with the **Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (ICAAP)** to promote adoption of the **National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA)** medical home model. Illinois will establish a public-private collaborative to address compelling problems in birth outcomes and infant health.

Working with the Initial Core Set of Children's Quality Measures

Illinois will collect, report, and test the use of the initial core set of children's quality measures and other State-specific measures using existing data sources (such as the Illinois Enterprise Data Warehouse) and improved data sharing. The State will create, test, revise, and report on the quality measures four times during the project, with the goal of creating a single process to link all data needed for production of these measures for various delivery systems and subpopulations. Illinois has also proposed working with the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), CMS, and NCQA to develop new measures.

[1] The five categories are projects that (1) show how a core set of children's quality measures can be used to improve quality of care for children, (2) promote the use of health information technology to enhance service quality and care coordination, (3) implement new or more comprehensive provider-based models of service delivery, (4) demonstrate the impact of a model electronic health record format for children, and (5) test an approach to quality improvement of a State's own design.

Using Health IT to Improve Child Health Care Quality

Illinois will collaborate with ongoing, statewide HIE and health IT development efforts to ensure that statewide efforts address children's health issues and support EHR adoption and broader health IT capacity within the pediatric community. Illinois will: identify measures and data that can be cost-effectively, reliably, and validly obtained through HIE sources; develop a mechanism to allow medical home providers to make electronic referrals to other medical and community providers; and make a minimum data set available to hospitals that describes women's use of prenatal care services.

Assessing a Provider-Based Model of Care

Illinois will collaborate with ICAAP to promote adoption of NCQA's medical home model. This project involves working with about 60 practices that will complete NCQA's self-assessment tool. Based on those results, practices will select and participate in a menu of options, including peer learning sessions and technical assistance, to enhance quality of care and move toward NCQA recognition.

Testing an Approach to Quality Improvement of Illinois's Own Design

Illinois will establish a public-private learning collaborative to address compelling problems in birth outcomes and infant health, focusing on high-risk mothers and babies. This collaborative will be a forum for sharing data, experiences, and lessons learned from past initiatives, new ideas, and the implementation of interventions focused on improving birth outcomes.

Evaluation Questions

The national evaluation team will gather information from Illinois to address a wide range of questions about the implementation and outcomes of their efforts including:

- What new quality measures did Illinois investigate?
- How did Illinois coordinate with statewide health IT developers on HIE, and how did that inform the HIE process?
- To what extent were Illinois's efforts to promote adoption of the medical home successful and did they lead to improved quality of health care for children?
- What are the key lessons from Illinois's experience that would be useful for other States?

Learn More

This information is current as of March 2012, slightly more than 2 years after grant award. To learn more about the projects that Illinois is implementing under the CHIPRA Quality Demonstration Grant Program, please contact:

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To learn more about the national evaluation of the CHIPRA Quality Demonstration Grant Program, visit the evaluation's Web page at **http://www.ahrq.gov/chipra/demoeval** or send an email to **CHIPRADemoEval@ahrq.hhs.gov**.