

## State at a Glance: Massachusetts

### 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.<sup>1</sup>

As one of the 10 grantees, Massachusetts is working to implement projects in three 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.
- Implementing a more comprehensive provider-based model of service delivery.
- Testing an approach to quality improvement of a State's own design.

### Massachusetts's Objectives

Massachusetts will (1) collect, report, and test the use of the initial core set of children's quality measures, (2) produce performance reports for families and consumers based on those measures, (3) support medical home practice transformation for a group of practices, and (4) build a coalition of key stakeholders to champion and advocate for child health care quality and measurement for the State.

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

Massachusetts will calculate and report on all 24 of the initial core set of children's quality measures by the fall of 2012. Measures requiring medical record abstraction are being collected from the practices participating in Massachusetts's CHIPRA medical home demonstration. Data for the other measures are being collected for Medicaid and CHIP children/women in the State, as well as for the commercially insured population. Massachusetts will produce practice-level reports for the core measures that can be calculated at that level and will determine their usefulness to practices in establishing performance goals and identifying quality improvement needs. The State also will develop and produce reports on the core measures for families to inform them about the quality of care provided for children in Massachusetts and encourage them to become more involved in the quality improvement process.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

### *Assessing a Provider-Based Model of Care*

Massachusetts is collaborating with 13 practices representing a range of provider locations and types to implement a medical home model that meets the needs of healthy children and children with complex conditions. Each participating practice has formed a medical home team led by a practice transformation facilitator who is a member of the practice staff. The practice transformation facilitator works closely with a senior leader in the practice, a physician champion, and two parent partners. Each medical home team is participating in learning collaborative meetings and being supported by a care coordinator employed by the [Massachusetts Department of Public Health](#). Practices are receiving financial support for implementing changes.

### *Testing an Approach to Quality Improvement of Massachusetts' Own Design*

Massachusetts has formed a statewide, multi-stakeholder pediatric coalition, the MA Child Health Quality Coalition, aimed at developing a 5-year road map for children's health care quality in Massachusetts. The coalition includes providers, payers, State and local government agencies, family advocacy groups, community-based organizations, and family representatives. The coalition will identify and prioritize actionable gaps in the quality and measurement of children's health care and will outline short- and long-term strategies for addressing those gaps. If resources are available, the group will specify and test new measures, in addition to the initial core set of children's quality measures, which address gaps in child health quality measurement.

### **Evaluation Questions**

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

- How did Massachusetts structure its reports on core measures and what was the effect?
- In what ways did parent partners contribute to the medical home transformation teams?
- Did the Massachusetts medical home project enhance quality of care for children?
- What are the key lessons from Massachusetts'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 being implemented in Massachusetts 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>.