

State at a Glance: West Virginia

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

West Virginia is working with **Oregon** (one of the 10 grantees) and **Alaska** in a tri-State partnership 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.
- 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.

West Virginia's Objectives

In West Virginia, a large proportion of the child population lives in rural areas and with low-income families. West Virginia is working with 10 practice sites in a virtual learning collaborative to implement a medical home model. West Virginia will also work with these practice sites to (1) collect, report, and test the use of the initial core set of children's quality measures and (2) encourage the use of an electronic personal health record for meaningful use in medical homes focused on improving the health of the population.

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

West Virginia will collect, report, and test a subset of the initial core set of children's quality measures while identifying measurement gaps and areas for improvement. The [Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative \(CAHMI\)](#), a national initiative out of the Oregon Health Sciences University, will develop a West Virginia-specific quality profile using existing population-based measures that highlight the need for quality improvement based on data from the [2009–2010 National Survey of Children's Health](#) and the [2011 National Survey of Children with Special Healthcare Needs](#).

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

West Virginia will use a Web-based reporting system to collect data from participating practices. It will encourage meaningful use of electronic health records (EHRs) and personal health records (PHRs) and will modify the PHR developed by the [West Virginia Health Improvement Institute](#) to include the initial core set of children's quality measures and care coordination templates. West Virginia will provide coaching and technical assistance in quality improvement approaches, the medical home model of care delivery, making practice changes, quality measurement, and using existing EHRs to achieve medical home recognition.

Assessing Provider-Based Models of Care

West Virginia will use the [National Committee for Quality Assurance \(NCQA\) medical home definition](#) to guide activities under this category. Using a virtual learning collaborative approach involving 10 practices over 18 months, West Virginia will help practices understand the medical home concept and implement quality improvement processes. The State will provide participating practices with a full-time care coordinator who will work with them to identify practice-specific aims to be achieved over a 3-year period.

Evaluation Questions

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

- How did West Virginia use the tri-State partnership to implement best practices in quality measurement and health IT applications?
- What strategies were used to connect providers to access to a personal health record that can be used with their existing EHR?
- To what extent did West Virginia's medical home model succeed in improving the quality of health care for children?
- What are the key lessons from West Virginia's experience that would be useful for other rural 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 West Virginia 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>.