



MACPAC

Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission



Medicaid and Population Health: Current Practice and Opportunities

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Overview of Population Health Chapter

- Medicaid Population Health Initiatives and Programs
- Partnering to Improve Population Health
- Monitoring Population Health among Medicaid Enrollees

Population Health: Definition

The health of a population as measured by health status indicators and as influenced by social, economic and physical environments, personal health practices, individual capacity and coping skills, human biology, early childhood development and health services (NRC 2003)

Importance of Population Health for Medicaid

- Medical care is only one factor in maintaining and improving health status
- Medicaid beneficiaries are disproportionately affected by many social determinants of health (poorer and sicker)
- Non-acute medical care and other population health programs can improve health outcomes and may help control costs
- Need to consider population health initiatives within the context of the Medicaid program

Population Health: Medicaid Mechanisms

- EPSDT program
- Preventive benefits
- Waiver and demonstration benefits
- Beneficiary and provider incentives
- Use of administrative funds
- Enhanced pregnancy benefits
- Managed care benefits
- Clarification on use of non-licensed or nontraditional providers

ACA Population Health Benefits

- Community assessments for non-profit hospitals
- Mandated preventive benefits
- Public awareness campaign
- Incentives for prevention of chronic diseases in Medicaid
- Immunization programs

Partnering to Improve Population Health: Federal Agencies

- CMS and other federal agency partnerships
- Health plans and provider partnerships
- Multi-sector partnerships

Challenges in Partnering to Promote Population Health

- Different financing mechanisms
- Different timeframes for evaluating effectiveness
- Incompatible data systems
- Differences in organizational culture or goals
- Conflicting eligibility rules and program coordination issues

Monitoring Population Health among Medicaid Enrollees

Assessing and monitoring population health requires decisions and information as to:

- what the current health of that population is
- what target level it should be and
- measures of progress towards those goals

Monitoring Population Health among Medicaid Enrollees

- Comparatively few Medicaid datasets can currently be used for this purpose (at the sub-national level)
- However, a considerable amount of work is underway, for example:
 - T-MSIS
 - Medicaid CAHPS
 - BRFSS addition of Medicaid question

Population Health among Medicaid Enrollees

- Medicaid has considerable flexibility to innovate with population health initiatives
- Medicaid programs have implemented many of these programs, both alone and in partnership with others



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