

Medi-Cal Core Measure Set



Project Overview

The Medi-Cal program is growing rapidly. As enrollment increases, and the Medi-Cal population shifts to managed care, an imperative is emerging for consistent and comparative performance measurement.

A majority of Medi-Cal plans have embraced pay for performance (P4P) strategies to align financial incentives with provider performance; however, the existing programs vary substantially with very little alignment of measures across Medi-Cal P4P programs. While some variation is useful, there is an opportunity to build on demonstrated successes towards greater standardization across programs to enhance effectiveness, reduce duplication, decrease resource burden associated with the programs, to ensure comparability of results.

In order to address concerns regarding variation, the Integrated Healthcare Association (IHA) established the Medi-Cal P4P Core Measure Set project in 2015 aimed to increase the effectiveness of Medi-Cal P4P programs through greater standardization of performance measurement. With funding from the Blue Shield of California Foundation, IHA recruited an Advisory Committee, made up of representatives from Medi-Cal managed care plans, providers serving Medi-Cal beneficiaries, the Department of Health Care Services, and other stakeholders to provide expertise and guidance on all project activities. Over the first year of the project, IHA's Advisory Committee has met several times via webinar and one in-person meeting in order to reach consensus on a core measure set that all Medi-Cal plans could incorporate into their existing P4P programs and a menu of additional measures that plans can use to supplement the core measure set at the local level.

With additional funding from the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (through the Transforming Clinical Practices Initiative), the project will continue for another two years until 2018. As a part of this work, IHA will focus on three key activities:

1. Identifying opportunities for measure set alignment across the policy environment;
2. Supporting implementation of the core measure set across all Medi-Cal P4P programs;
3. Spreading the core measure set to Medi-Cal plans not participating on the Advisory Committee.

About the Integrated Healthcare Association

The Integrated Healthcare Association (IHA) is a nonprofit multi-stakeholder leadership group that promotes healthcare quality improvement, accountability and affordability for the benefit of all Californians. IHA has over a decade of experience leading regional and statewide performance measurement and incentive programs, and serving as an incubator for pilot programs and demonstration projects.

As a regional healthcare improvement collaborative, IHA convenes diverse, cross-sector organizations to collaborate on challenging healthcare issues. IHA membership includes industry-leading health plans, physician groups, and hospital systems, plus academic, consumer, purchaser, pharmaceutical and technology representatives. Principal projects and activities include the California Value Based Pay for Performance Program, performance measurement, payment innovation, administrative simplification, and promoting the use of health information technology and integrated care delivery.

For additional information, contact Sarah Lally, Project Manager, at slally@iha.org, or 510.281.5615, or Jill Yegian, Senior Vice President, Programs and Policy, at jyegian@iha.org, or 510.281.5612.