Total Cost of Care Accelerates Healthcare Affordability

In the pursuit of advancing payment reform, the Network for Regional Healthcare Improvement (NRHI) is leading a multi-regional innovation initiative focused on the production, sharing and use of information about the total cost of care. With funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, five pioneering regional health improvement collaboratives (RHICs) were joined by thirteen additional regions in a unique approach to standardizing how they report cost information. Balancing local customization with alignment to national efforts makes the information consistent, relevant, and actionable. NRHI’s regional partners:

• **Produce standardized, high-quality data analyses:** Most regional health improvement collaboratives are already engaged in data collection and reporting. Often, the data varies from one region to the next. Participation in this effort helps regional partners initiate or accelerate their ability to produce meaningful cost comparisons at the local and regional level. Regional partners work collaboratively with one another and with the project’s technical advisor to arrive at standardized healthcare cost information of the highest quality. These efforts support each regional partner’s goal of serving as a trusted community resource.

• **Share both information and experiences:** Emerging federal healthcare policy and healthcare market changes require transparent, nationally standardized information on relative performance. As growing numbers of regional partners develop the ability to produce and use the total cost of care measure, opportunities for sharing vitally important cost information, insights, and successful initiatives increase. Knowledge sharing eliminates the need to start from scratch, and supports each regional partner’s ability to design reporting tools around local and national stakeholder input. By embracing proven practices from one region to the next — and avoiding missteps — participation will help eliminate inefficiencies, allowing stakeholders to innovate and accelerate healthcare affordability.

• **Use the resulting information to compel fundamental change:** Data analyzed at the local and regional level, and prepared for national aggregation, will allow regional partners and their stakeholders to produce reports and compare their results to their peers — locally, regionally and nationally. As awareness and market forces compel the identification and replication of initiatives that reduce healthcare costs and eliminate unnecessary spending — estimated to represent as much as 37% of all healthcare expenditures\(^1\) — those reductions will free resources for reallocation within the community, funding a growing culture of health.

\(^1\) Reducing Waste in Health Care. Health Affairs Health Policy Brief, December 13, 2012

REGIONAL COMMITMENT. NATIONAL IMPACT.

Pilot RHICs

- Center for Improving Value in Health Care | Colorado
- Maine Health Management Coalition | Maine*
- Midwest Health Initiative | St. Louis, Missouri
- Minnesota Community Measurement | Minnesota
- Oregon Health Care Quality Corporation | Oregon
- Greater Detroit Area Health Council | Michigan
- HealthInsight Nevada | Nevada
- HealthInsight New Mexico | New Mexico
- HealthInsight Utah | Utah
- Health Care Improvement Foundation | Philadelphia
- The Health Collaborative | Ohio
- Integrated Healthcare Association | California
- Maryland Health Care Commission | Maryland
- Massachusetts Health Quality Partners | Massachusetts
- The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston | Texas
- Virginia Health Information | Virginia
- Washington Health Alliance | Washington
- Wisconsin Health Information Organization | Wisconsin

Expansion Regions

*Phase I and II only participant