

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 nine 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 expenditures¹ — 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

The Network for Regional Healthcare Improvement (NRHI) is a national organization of more than thirty-five member regional health improvement collaboratives (RHICs) across the United States. These multi-stakeholder organizations are working in their regions and collaborating across regions to transform the healthcare delivery system to improve the patient experience of care, including quality and satisfaction; improve the health of populations; and reduce the per-capita cost of healthcare.

REGIONAL COMMITMENT. NATIONAL IMPACT.



The initiative was piloted by NRHI and RHICs in five regions. Their success led to the expansion to nine additional regions over the course of the project.

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

Expansion Regions

HealthInsight Utah | Utah
Health Care Improvement Foundation | Philadelphia
The Health Collaborative | Ohio
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

*Phase I and II only participant