

## What are Regional Health Improvement Collaboratives?

If our healthcare system is going to transform, multi-faceted approaches are needed to overcome barriers in a coordinated way. These approaches will, by necessity, differ in different parts of the country because of significant variations in the structure of healthcare and in the specific types of cost and quality problems in each community. These factors make it highly unlikely that any one-size-fits-all national solution will work.



Since each of the healthcare stakeholders in a community—consumers, physicians, hospitals, health plans, businesses, government—will be affected, each stakeholder needs to be involved in planning and implementing changes. In many communities, there is distrust between stakeholder groups, pointing to the need for a neutral facilitator to help design “win-win” solutions.

Many communities recognize that regional health improvement collaboratives (RHICs) are an ideal mechanism for developing coordinated, multi-stakeholder solutions for their healthcare cost and quality problems. A RHIC does not deliver healthcare services directly or pay for such services; rather, it provides a neutral, trusted mechanism through which the community can plan, facilitate, and coordinate the many different activities required for successful transformation of its healthcare system.

There has been a dramatic growth in the number of RHICs in recent years, partly due to the growing concern about healthcare costs and quality across the country, and the proactive efforts by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (through the Aligning Forces for Quality program) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (through the Beacon and Chartered Value Exchange programs) to foster the creation of such entities.

The leading RHICs are members of the Network for Regional Healthcare Improvement (NRHI), a national membership organization for regional health improvement collaboratives.

### 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 Health Improvement Collaboratives (RHICs)

1. Non-profit organizations based in a specific geographic region of the country (i.e., a metropolitan region or state);
2. Governed by a multi-stakeholder board comprised of healthcare providers (both physicians and hospitals), payers (health insurance plans and government health coverage programs), purchasers of healthcare (employers, unions, retirement funds, and government), and consumers;
3. Help stakeholders in their community identify opportunities for improving the health and healthcare of the community, and facilitate planning and implementation of strategies for addressing those opportunities.