

The Center for Healthcare Transparency

The Center for Healthcare Transparency's purpose is to make meaningful and reliable provider cost and quality information readily available for 50% of the US by 2020.

Starting in May 2014, the Center will lead an 18 month planning process to develop a blueprint to ensure meaningful and actionable information on healthcare costs and quality can be produced for all stakeholders. This is an ambitious goal that will be accomplished in partnership with key federal and state agencies and by building upon existing regional healthcare cost and quality data aggregation and measurement efforts, such as state APCDs, Regional Health Improvement Collaboratives and Medicare Qualified Entities.

The Center envisions a federated, national network of such locally governed regional entities that will make data readily accessible - with appropriate safeguards - to public and private purchasers, providers, consumers, health plans and other stakeholders seeking to use information to transform care. Each region of the US would be served by a data utility that operates within national requirements and uses national standards, while maintaining local autonomy and governance. The data from these utilities would assist (1) public and private purchasers in administering pay-for-value programs, (2) providers and community organizations in implementing practice transformation and improvement, and (3) the general public in making more informed health care decisions.

The Center will work with a broad range of public and private stakeholders to understand their expected information needs through 2020, and develop a suitable strategic plan for national implementation. At the same time, the Center will be working closely with about ten states and regions that have deep experience in providing cost and quality data to their communities, in order to develop a library of "best practices" that support rapid implementation in today's environment. This library will include technical specifications, legal and data use agreements, and business practices.

The Center will run two competitive RFPs, one for participation in a Collaborative of Regional Data Centers to recommend best practices and solutions to current barriers to transparency and another for R&D/Innovation pilots to test potential critical path improvements. The Center's team will also be evaluating development of a single interface or shared data standards for national data sources, coordination of publishing opportunities, and developing model contracts, provider networks, benefit designs and quality improvement strategies that lead to high value care. These will inform the design of the data resources required to drive healthcare improvement and cost reduction. Each of these work streams will feed into the Center's 5 Year Plan to achieve transparency by 2020.

The nonprofit Center is a partnership between the Network for Regional Healthcare Improvement (NRHI) and the Pacific Business Group on Health (PBGH). An Executive Committee that includes leading thinkers from Regional Health Improvement Collaboratives, purchasers, providers, health plans, the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the National Coordinator and others is overseeing the project. The project is initially funded by the Laura & John Arnold Foundation.

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