

Value Based Insurance Design

What is Value Based Insurance Design (VBID)?

The basic premise of Value Based Insurance Design is to align patients' out-of-pocket costs, such as copays and premiums, with the value of health services. This approach to designing benefit plans recognizes that different health services have different levels of value. By reducing barriers to high-value treatments (through lower costs to patients) and discouraging low-value treatments (through higher costs to patients), carefully crafted insurance benefits can achieve improved health outcomes at any level of health care expenditure. Another important feature of value based benefit design is that it works to steer consumers toward high performing and high value providers who avoid ordering low value/ high cost procedures.

How does Value Based Insurance Design fit into the work of SIM?

The notion and practice of VBID impacts various aspects of the SIM grant, particularly the work of the Accountable Care Implementation Work Group and the Health Care Cost Work Groups. This includes:

- Convening a VBID work group to explore opportunities to align patients' out of pocket costs (i.e. copayments and deductibles) with the value of services provided.
- Surveying existing benefit plans to identify current and/or planned activity incorporating VBID design, including payment based on quality performance and cost effectiveness.
- Identifying and developing the key elements of VBID, based on the work of the ACI and Healthcare Cost Work Groups. Specifically measuring of quality performance and cost effectiveness. Special attention will be given to aligning with measures that are being used by payers, including MaineCare and Medicare.
- Ranking benefit plans according to adopted VBID metrics and subsequently publically reporting and updating them regularly.

The Maine Health Management Coalition is also charged with the development and implementation of a media campaign that engages and educates the broader public about the benefits of value based insurance design, as well as the broader topic of payment reform. This campaign includes the development of a VBID video, CEU credits for brokers and Human Resource Specialists and the creation of a VBID implementation toolkit. Along with these activities, the Coalition will host free trainings on the benefits of VBID for advocates, navigators, AAA advisors, brokers, human resource specialists and others as appropriate.

Who is involved in this initiative?

Accountable Care Initiative Workgroup

Health Care Cost Work Group

Payment Reform Subcommittee

For more in-depth information visit www.sph.umich.edu/vbidcenter/

Pathways to Excellence- Behavioral Health (PTE- BH)

What is PTE- BH?

Pathways to Excellence is the public reporting initiative signature program of the Maine Health Management Coalition. The Coalition measures and reports quality data on primary care medical practices and hospital system and assigns them a good, better or best ranking to help consumers decide where to seek health care services . These ranking are published to the Get Better Maine website (www.getbettermaine.org). Some large purchasers in Maine use this information to tier providers in innovative benefit plan designs, providing incentives for enrollees to seek care from highly ranked providers. PTE- BH will utilize the already established Pathways to Excellence structure, but will focus on behavioral health quality metrics.

How Does PTE-BH Fit into the Work of SIM?

A significant part of SIM is working to identify common metrics across payers for public reporting and alignment with payment through the work of the PTE workgroups. The PTE – BH workgroup will identify national metrics in which to measure the integration of behavioral health into primary care medical homes, along with other data measures, and disseminate those rankings publically.

The SIM will do this by

- Recruiting and organizing participants for the PTE- BH workgroup, retaining a behavioral health clinical consultant to lead and facilitate the group and hiring staff to support the work of PTE-BH.
- Convening a new PTE- BH consensus based work group that will meet on a monthly basis.
- Working with the group to identify viable performance measures (integration and/or quality) for public reporting.

Once the workgroup identifies the integration/quality metrics, those metrics will be assessed against specification review criteria (i.e. importance, scientific acceptability, usability, feasibility, and how a metric may address gaps in performance). Once the measures are adopted, they will be brought back to the PTE-BH workgroup for value assignment, to identify good/better/best rankings and sending them to the MHMC board for review and approval. The approved behavioral health metrics will be incorporated into the rankings and released to the public and updated on an ongoing basis.

Who is involved with this initiative?

PTE- BH Workgroup

Maine Health Management Coalition – Data Team, PTE Team, Board

Payment Reform Subcommittee

Delivery System Reform Subcommittee

For more in-depth information visit www.getbettermaine.org

Pathways to Excellence

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Within Pathways to Excellence, there are the following work groups:

PTE- Physicians Work Group

The PTE Physicians Steering Committee is a group of providers, employer representatives, physician practice leaders, PHOs, hospital quality improvement directors, health plan medical directors, and other engaged personnel that are charged with measuring and publically reporting on the quality and value of healthcare in Maine at the adult and pediatric primary care level. The PTE Physician Steering Committee also measures and reports on select medical specialties.

PTE-Systems Work Group

The PTE Systems Steering Committee is a group of employers/purchasers, providers, health plans and consumers that are charged with developing system wide measures – including cost, utilization, population health and outcomes. These measures will guide systems and purchasers as they transition to becoming Accountable Care Organizations.

PTE- Behavioral Health Work Group

The PTE – BH workgroup will identify national metrics in which to measure the integration of behavioral health into primary care medical homes, along with other data measures, and disseminate those rankings publically.

Advanced Primary Care Recognition

APC Recognition is the Maine Health Management Coalition's Pathways to Excellence recognition program that is designed to recognize those practices moving towards becoming patient centered medical homes. The PTE Physicians Steering Committee works to identify core metrics for APC recognition and tests the identified metrics for feasibility in terms of data availability, validity etc. Using the approved metrics, APC Recognition will highlight high performing practices for their efforts in moving towards become a patient centered medical home.