**Distinctions between PTE and ACI**

This document describes the respective roles of two Maine Health Management Coalition Foundation programs and how they relate to the SIM Payment Reform Subcommittee. The programs are Pathways to Excellence (PTE) and the Accountable Care Implementation (ACI) Steering Group.

**PTE**

PTE is a MHMC-F program charged with recommending measures for public reporting to the MHMC Foundation Board. PTE is comprised of two steering committees: PTE Physicians and PTE Systems. Both PTE committees are comprised of multi-stakeholder representatives with the task to vet measures, to assign values for comparative ratings, and to recommend how the results are reported. Two distinguishing features of the PTE program are the deliberate multi-stakeholder process of assigning value to provider results and the approval of website design for public reporting of those results.

The Maine Health Management Coalition (MHMC) Foundation Board approves measure results recommended by the PTE steering committees for public reporting on the MHMC GetBetterMaine website ([www.getbettermaine.org/](http://www.getbettermaine.org/)). Currently the PTE Systems measures are limited to inpatient hospital measures of care under the domains of: Effective care, Maternity care, Safe care, and Patient Experience. Hospitals are ranked Low, Good, Better or Best according to methodology agreed upon by the PTE Systems steering committee.

These publicly reported measures are used for general public information and several MHMC plan sponsors employ the measures (both Physician and System) as primary measures of performance for value-based benefit design and tiered benefit structures. The PTE Systems steering committee has agreed to proceed with expanding the metrics to include: hospital readmissions, emergency department utilization for ambulatory sensitive conditions, admissions for ambulatory sensitive conditions, total cost of care.

Further, under the SIM project PTE will strengthen primary care measurement and develop behavioral health measures for public reporting.

**ACI**

The Accountable Care Implementation (ACI) steering group was established as a forum to identify interventions and pilots advancing comprehensive payment reform and system redesign. Local pilots and initiatives would produce performance results that could be shared with other ACI participants and publicly reported through PTE, when feasible. The MHMC database is used by the steering group to identify priority interventions, to develop baseline information, and to establish performance targets. The ACI steering group is intended to also examine value-based benefit design features and other changes to support performance outcomes.

With the emergence of CMS Shared Savings, Pioneer and commercial shared savings arrangements, ACI was identified as the vehicle to identify common ACO metrics for performance reporting to support the SIM objective of aligning measures and payment strategies among the public and commercial sectors. While PTE is devoted exclusively to public reporting, ACI is designed to have a broader role in supporting the SIM goal of expanding alternative payments methods.

As an illustration, ACI will examine various measures that are applicable to payment and system reform efforts. The ACI’s multi-stakeholder review may identify a common core set of measures that has relevant value indicating clinical, utilization, and cost outcomes. From that core set of measures, ACI would recommend a selected subset to PTE for consideration as publicly reported measures. ACI is not the exclusive source of recommended measures to PTE for public reporting. ACI would not engage in value assignment for selected system measures.

Further, ACI would identify a series of metrics to facilitate common performance measures for contracting and payment purposes by all payers. From these measures, ACI would identify a core set of measures that would be recommended for use by all payers in all payment models and a set of optional measures that could be selected to meet local or organizational priorities. Finally, ACI would endorse a core ACO measure set to enable comparative system performance. The purpose of the comparative reporting is to inform multi-stakeholders of successful interventions, to share findings, and to promote the acceleration of favorable strategies.