

Important Information State Medicaid Agencies (SMAs) and Health Information Organizations (HIOs) need to know about guidance on technology to support the Opioid Crisis from The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has addressed a number of interoperability and Medicaid technology reuse topics, most of which will have an impact on health information organizations (HIOs) and/or State Medicaid Agencies (SMAs). While historically, health information technology (HIT) projects focused on pharmacy or prescription data have been funded under HITECH funds, CMS is now opening general Medicaid IT funding to address the opioid crisis. Click here for [information](#), which is more acutely focused on technology reuse or click here for [information](#), which is focused on CMS funding requests.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG MONITORING PROGRAMS

CMS acknowledges that integration with Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMP) data into the provider workflow and systems improves provider burden, increases the likelihood of combating drug addiction, and promotes interstate health information exchange (HIE). This can be achieved in several different approaches:

- Deploying single sign-on capabilities between provider Electronic Health Records and PDMPs;
- Integrating PDMPs into HIEs to assist in clinical decision making or combine complementary data for providers and other users;
- Designating the PDMP as a specialized registry for purposes of Medicaid EHR incentive program requirements;
- Using Medicaid federal funding to improve capabilities and integration approaches to PDMPs (interstate and/or intrastate)
- Proposing a different approach to improving access and utilization of PDMP data to CMS.

We expect that CMS will work with states on state-by-state basis for these approvals. HIOs that have broad connectivity and currently have access to prescription or PDMP data should work with their state stakeholders to identify the best path to support the above-mentioned CMS endorsed tactics for combating the opioid crisis.

ADVANCED ANALYTICS AND PUBLIC HEALTH DATA

CMS recognizes the use of advanced analytics for screening and risk profiling can facilitate and coordinate interventions for the opioid crisis. Specifically, current Medicaid business processes supports the establishment for case management systems that can target members, assess needs and programs, establish care management and treatment plans, and coordinate with providers. SMAs can request additional funding to support such technology and also include non-Medicaid data that can assist in the analysis and screening to support the opioid crisis.

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TECHNOLOGIES FOR COORDINATING CARE AND INCREASING ACCESS TO CARE

Member access to substance use disorder (SUD) treatment remains a challenge for States. CMS also notes that many behavioral health providers lack systems to leverage electronic data. As such, SMAs are encouraged to leverage app-based technologies that could improve utilization of technology for providers.

Telehealth remains an effective tool to improve coordinated care and access to care. SMAs can leverage federal funding to support telehealth technologies, share electronic care plans, and/or improve current Medicaid technology to better coordinate and onboard providers to these systems.

BROADER IMPACT TO MEDICAID AND BEYOND

CMS also reminds states that these technology approaches need not reside within Medicaid and often are outside of the Medicaid Enterprise. As SMAs design systems with a greater focus on value-based systems, more systems and businesses processes will be tied to other statewide systems (e.g., HIOs, social services, etc.). In these scenarios, CMS expects cost allocation methodologies be highlighted (e.g., a service that exclusively supports Medicaid business processes commands a higher percentage of overall cost vs. a service that is shared across Medicaid and other programs).

KEY TOPICS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR STAKEHOLDERS

The above CMS guidance offers opportunity for states and other stakeholders to explore enhanced funding. Specifically;

- How does the 90/10 opportunity help with strategic objectives?
- How does the reusable infrastructure benefit the broader ecosystem?
- How can the stakeholders contribute and participate in the HIT ecosystem strategy and capabilities?
- How can states finance the state share component?
- How can data from multiple sources be brought together to provide better patient care?

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