

Ohio PCMH Weekly

Ohio PCMH Weekly is a summary of Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) news from around Ohio, as well as a sampling of national PCMH news and educational opportunities. Comments and suggestions can be directed to PCMH@odh.ohio.gov. To become a member of the Ohio Patient-Centered Primary Care Collaborative (OPCPCC) and receive Ohio PCMH Weekly, go to <http://www.odh.ohio.gov/landing/medicalhomes/Membership.aspx>.

Dec. 31, 2014

ODH PCMH Year in Review

Ohio experienced significant growth both in interest in PCMH and the number of PCMH sites in Ohio in 2014. Ohio's [PCMH Education Pilot Project](#) concluded in June with 42 [pilot sites](#), with 18 practices having achieved PCMH recognition and many others in the process of completing applications for recognition. The pilot project continued to facilitate progress in implementing PCMH curriculum reform; an interprofessional [PCMH curriculum](#) meeting was held in June. Through the Choose Ohio First [primary care scholarship program](#), scholarships were awarded to 50 medical students and 30 advanced practice nursing students who have committed to serving in primary care in Ohio. The State of Ohio and numerous stakeholders submitted a [State Innovation Model](#) testing grant application and received notice in December that \$75 was awarded by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation for the four-year project; expanding the PCMH model in Ohio is a critical component of that plan. Membership in the Ohio Patient-Centered Primary Care Collaborative ([OPCPCC](#)) has grown to over 800 members and over 270 attended the annual fall conference. OPCPCC Learning Centers created a PCMH patient engagement [toolbox](#) and a [PCMH consumer website](#). Most importantly, the [growth in PCMH practices](#) has resulted in more Ohioans being served through this advanced model of primary care. In December of 2013, 348 practices were recognized or accredited as PCMHs in Ohio. In December of 2014, Ohio now boasts 486 NCQA-recognized PCMH practices, seven AAAHC-accredited medical homes, and 51 Joint Commission-accredited medical homes, for a total of 544 PCMHs. We are grateful for your partnership in 2014 and look forward to working with you in 2015, as we strive to improve the health of Ohioans.

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Educational Resource

Assessment Tools for Organizations Integrating Primary Care and Behavioral Health

These assessments can provide a jumping off point to identify the logical next steps for organizations to determine areas for workforce development, exploration into the addition of specific clinical services (e.g. SBIRT, MAT, screening), or the adoption or expansion of your health information technology capabilities. Explore this [SAMHSA-HRSA website](#) for resources and information to support organizations in integrating care at all levels and stages.

PCMH News and Articles

Fact sheets: State Innovation Models Initiative Round Two

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced the recipients of 11 Model Test and 21 Model Design awards under the second round of the State Innovation Models initiative on December 16, 2014. This fact sheet summarizes the plans of the participating states. Common themes including strengthening primary care, integration of primary care with behavioral health, utilizing patient-centered medical homes, and transformation of primary care. [View fact sheet](#)

Reversing the Medicaid Fee Bump: How Much Could Medicaid Physician Fees for Primary Care Fall in 2015?

Because of long-standing concerns about the level of physician reimbursement in the Medicaid program and its effect on physicians' willingness to accept Medicaid patients, the ACA included a mandatory two-year increase in Medicaid fees for primary care services to Medicare levels. This increase is fully funded by the federal government and raises Medicaid fees for certain primary care services provided by family physicians, internists, and pediatricians from January 1, 2013, through December 31, 2014. Congress did not extend the higher rates, so unless states take action themselves or the new Congress revisits the issue, primary care physicians will see their Medicaid fees fall by nearly 43 percent starting in January, according to a new report from the Urban Institute. [Read report](#)

How the High Cost of Medical Care Is Affecting Americans

Over the past two years, the New York Times series [Paying Till It Hurts](#) has examined the high costs of ordinary medical care in the U.S., exposing the reasons and chronicling the human fallout behind the nation's extraordinary \$2.9 trillion medical bill. In response, more than 10,000 readers shared individual experiences. But how does a collection of often heartbreaking, often startling tales reflect national experiences and attitudes? The Times designed a questionnaire with CBS News and conducted a national poll. [Read article](#)

Where Doctors Train May Affect Whether They Practice Expensive Medicine

Doctors who were trained in high-cost areas of the United States may be more likely to practice expensive medicine, a new study suggests. Researchers from George Washington University analyzed Medicare claims data from doctors who completed their residencies between 1992 and 2010. They found that those who did their medical training in more expensive regions of the country spent an average of 29 percent more on patient care than those who did their training in less expensive regions. [Read article](#)



Spotlight

Physician referral system reboot improves patient access

Two years ago, University Hospitals of Cleveland set out to solve problems within its patient access operations. The academic medical center historically had challenges related to its call center operations, scheduling and referral guidelines and provider information visibility. As part of a comprehensive restructuring of its access services - made in parallel with a physician referral initiative to match patients with the correct specialists - the organization invested in a software upgrade. Six months later, they saw a 20 percent decrease in the number of patients who hang up while on hold with the call center. [Read article](#)

Do you have some PCMH news to share? We would like to highlight your achievements in this section of Ohio PCMH Weekly. Please send your submissions to PCMH@odh.ohio.gov.

**OPCPCC wishes you a
happy and healthy
2015.**