

Executive Summary

The Illinois Academy of Family Physicians (IAFP) is implementing a practice transformation initiative on Patient Centered Medical Home, called the Practice Improvement Network (PIN). Components of this initiative include: a pilot project consisting of 30 practices in Illinois, deploying a network of ambassadors throughout the state to spread the message of PCMH as a facet of health reform, relevant live and web-based CME programs, and IAFP produced communications supporting the PIN initiative.

The largest medical home undertaking in the US is the Illinois Medicaid's Disease Mgmt program and Primary Care Case Mgmt; IAFP had been integrally involved with both programs with physician leaders and providing education /training on their implementation. These two programs are the cornerstones on which IAFP can launch further healthcare reform transformation at the practice level for all patients, regardless of the payer. IAFP's input in IL Health Connect and Your Healthcare Plus program, along with our contributions to guiding the state's work on Health Information Exchange, IAFP is the premier primary care medical organization.

Based on the efforts of American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) to establish the medical home as the foundation of meaningful healthcare reform and the focus of TransforMED to provide tools for practices, IAFP will effectively lead practices in building a successful, sustainable medical home. Taking into consideration Medicare and Medicaid EHR meaningful use incentives, private health plans, NCQA, URAC, and Joint Commission medical home accreditation options, employers, AAFP and TransforMed tools, the 30 pilot practices will choose functional areas to focus on and implement into the practice workflow. IAFP will provide practice management services to assist these practices. The goals will be – to improve the health of the population, enhance the patient experience of care (including quality, access and coordination) and reduce unnecessary costs, and control the per capita cost of care.

The five components are: focus on individuals and families; redesign of primary care services and structures; population health management; cost control platform; and system integration and execution. IAFP will invest up to \$250,000 from reserves over a two-year period to support these “early adopters” in transforming their practices. IAFP will provide a project coordinator for the pilot program and a “coach” to each practice.

IAFP will also deploy designated network ambassadors across the state to educate all physicians on practice transformation in this new era of healthcare reform. IAFP will develop a communications mechanism for the distribution of Practice Transformation education, including marketing materials, a monthly newsletter for pilot practices and ambassadors, a library of CME and non-CME resources, establishment of CME sites providing live, web-based and self-study opportunities throughout the state.

A Practice Transformation Committee with considerable expertise will oversee the criteria and determine measures for clinical and practice management. Evaluations will be conducted on all pilot practice projects and results will be communicated for additional learning and potential further expansion of the PIN network to a larger audience of practice sites. IAFP is committed to leading and empowering practices in implementing the new model of patient centered care, thereby improving health care for all patients.