

TO: Rhode Island Insurers and Primary Care Practices
FROM: Cory King
DATE: January 3, 2022
RE: 2020-21 OHIC PCMH Quality Benchmark Modifications

I. Background

In October 2021, the Rhode Island Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner (OHIC) collected quality measure performance data from Rhode Island practices seeking recognition as a Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH). According to [OHIC's 2020 regulations](#), practices are required to demonstrate clinical quality attainment or improvement according to established benchmarks in order to meet the definition of PCMH and thereby qualify for enhanced insurer payments. OHIC set the 2020-2021 benchmarks assuming COVID-19 would not have as significant an impact on 2020-2021 performance as on 2019-2020 performance (see Table 1 for 2020-2021 benchmarks).

II. Analysis

When analyzing the 2020-2021 performance data, OHIC discovered that a significantly lower percentage of practices met the quality attainment or improvement requirement in 2020-2021 than in prior years. Using the 2020-2021 benchmarks, only 79% of practices met the performance requirement (see **Table 1**), which is markedly lower than in 2019, when 91% of practices met the performance requirement.¹

Performance was particularly poor for specific measures. For example, only 35% of practices met the performance requirement for *Comprehensive Diabetes Care Eye Exam* and 65% of practices met the performance requirement for *Lead Screening in Children*.

Performance was also poorer for Medicaid-focused practices² than for commercial-focused practices for specific measures. For example, only 39% of Medicaid-focused practices met the performance requirement for *Developmental Screening in the First Three Years of Life* compared to 90% of commercial-focused practices.

III. Benchmark Modifications

Given that care patterns seem not to have recovered from the COVID-19 pandemic as quickly as anticipated, OHIC has modified the 2020-2021 benchmarks. Under the modified benchmarks, 90% of practices met the performance requirement (see Table 2).

¹ In 2020, 100% of practices met the performance requirement because benchmarks were set at 0% due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

² Medicaid-focused practices are defined as practices with more than 50% of patients covered by Medicaid or uninsured. Commercial-focused practices are defined as practices with fewer than 50% of patients covered by Medicaid or uninsured.

Table 1. Original 2020-2021 PCMH Benchmarks and Percent of Practices Meeting the Performance Requirement

	Adult Measures				Pediatric Measures			
	Colorectal Cancer Screening	Comprehensive Diabetes Care - Eye Exam	Comprehensive Diabetes Care - HbA1c Control (<8.0%)	Controlling High Blood Pressure (<i>Reporting Only</i>)	Adolescent Well Care Visits	Developmental Screening in the First Three Years	Lead Screening in Children	
Original Benchmarks for 2020-2021 Survey								
Commercial	60%	49%	63%	0%	75%	68%	73%	
Medicaid	47%	49%	57%	0%	54%	68%	73%	
TOTAL Percent of Practices Meeting the Requirement (Original Benchmarks)								
TOTAL	79%	83%	35%	82%	100%	76%	71%	65%
Commercial	79%	84%	38%	82%	100%	80%	90%	66%
Medicaid	75%	77%	23%	82%	100%	71%	39%	65%

Table 2. Revised 2020-2021 PCMH Benchmarks and Percent of Practices Meeting the Performance Requirement

	Adult Measures				Pediatric Measures			
	Colorectal Cancer Screening	Comprehensive Diabetes Care - Eye Exam	Comprehensive Diabetes Care - HbA1c Control (<8.0%)	Controlling High Blood Pressure (<i>Reporting Only</i>)	Adolescent Well Care Visits	Developmental Screening in the First Three Years	Lead Screening in Children	
Revised Benchmarks for 2020-2021 Survey								
Commercial	50%	25%	60%	0%	65%	55%	53%	
Medicaid	42%	20%	54%	0%	44%	45%	43%	
TOTAL Percent of Practices Meeting the Requirement (Revised Benchmarks)								
TOTAL	90%	89%	80%	89%	100%	84%	90%	92%
Commercial	88%	89%	80%	90%	100%	83%	93%	90%
Medicaid	100%	86%	82%	82%	100%	86%	83%	95%