

Project Abstract

State of Maine Data Center Enhancement to Improve Health Cost Transparency

The Health Insurance Rate Review Grant Program: Grants to States to Support Health Insurance Rate Review and Increase Transparency in the Pricing of Medical Services, Cycle IV, Funding Opportunity Number: PR-PRP-14-001

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The Maine Health Data Organization (MHDO) is proposed as the lead agency for Maine's Rate Review Cycle IV grant to enhance their existing Data Center. The Maine Legislature established MHDO in 1996 as an independent executive agency to create and maintain a useful, objective, reliable and comprehensive health information database that is used to improve the health of Maine citizens. MHDO created the nation's first All Payer Claims Database (APCD) and has been collecting medical, pharmacy and dental claims data from public and private insurers since 2003 as defined in Statute and rule and makes those data publicly available while protecting individual privacy. MHDO is also required in Statute to provide data on quality of care and price comparisons.

Building upon the work being done under Maine's Rate Review Cycle III activities, MHDO intends to use grant funding to further integrate and enhance its cost and quality data to provide more comprehensive and useful information to consumers, providers, employers, and other key stakeholders. MHDO will develop ways to improve access to and dissemination of its wealth of data to further promote cost and quality transparency. Specifically, MHDO intends to use funds for the following health cost and quality website activities as well as health data transparency and dissemination activities:

Health Cost and Quality Website Activities

- 1) Increase the number procedures displayed
 - a) Add additional medical procedures
 - b) Develop and implement an inpatient procedure category and affiliated procedures
 - c) Add mental health/substance abuse procedure category and affiliated procedures
 - d) Explore adding a dental procedure category and affiliated procedures
 - e) Explore adding and enhancing pricing information for pharmacy data (previous activities focused on researching and linking to external data sources)
- 2) Increase the number of non-hospital facilities displayed
- 3) Define clinical data to collect (such as laboratory results) and explore integration options
- 4) Enhance the consumer website experience on computers, tablets, and mobile devices
- 5) Enhance the procedure search function (possibilities include searching for facilities by a clickable county map and searching for procedures by clicking on relevant areas of the human body)
- 6) Enhance data display (possibilities include displaying color-coded price variation on a county map; reporting cost using symbols or words rather than numbers)

Health Data Transparency and Dissemination Activities

- 1) Work with stakeholders to develop an online data request system to collect information required for data release and streamline the release process
- 2) Research and make recommendations on the best data payment model options that promote access and sustainability
- 3) Research and make recommendations on options for self-service access to data
- 4) Support the ongoing activities of the Consumer Advisory Group

The State of Maine is requesting \$1,179,000 to complete this ambitious agenda over the period of October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2016.