

Rethinking Care for America’s Highest Need, Highest Cost Populations

It is estimated that 5 percent of Medicaid beneficiaries drive as much as 50 percent of total Medicaid spending. The Center for Health Care Strategies (CHCS) is working with multiple partners to develop a multi-pronged initiative, the *Rethinking Care Program*, focused on improving quality and reducing costs for the highest cost, highest need Medicaid beneficiaries.

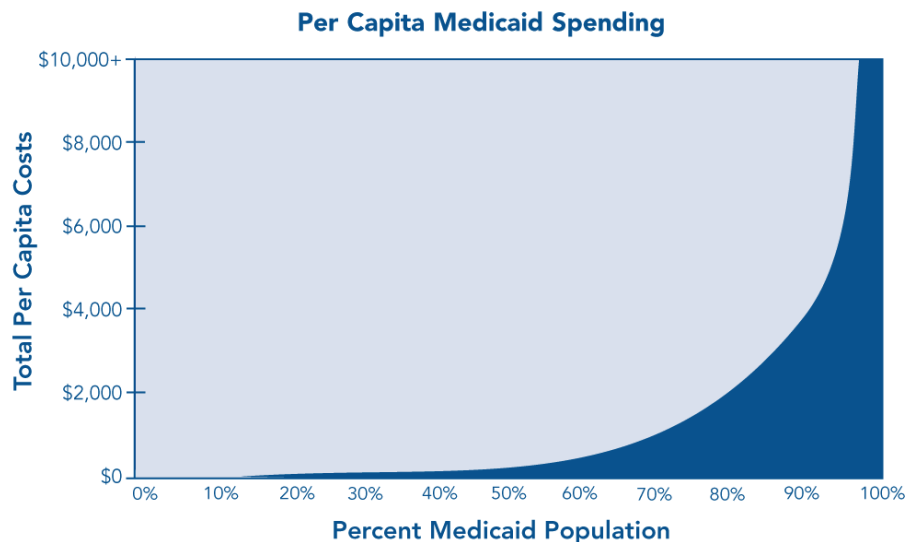
The *Rethinking Care Program* is designed to serve as a national Medicaid “Learning Laboratory” on innovations in care for this population. It has two key components:

1. **National Integrated Care Learning Network (NICLN):** Leading health care and policy experts will gather evidence on best practices, build consensus on rapid cycle testing of new models of care, and create a national research and evaluation agenda for improving and disseminating knowledge about these populations and how to care for them.
2. **Regional Integrated Care Collaboratives (RICC):** Five to eight regional or state multi-stakeholder collaboratives will serve as the laboratories for designing, testing, and implementing innovations to improve care for high-risk, high-cost patients.

The *Rethinking Care Program* will help stakeholders in Medicaid and other sectors of the health care system:

- Identify, stratify and prioritize impactable patients;
- Design and test tailored care management interventions;
- Evaluate interventions; and
- Realign financing to support new models of care.

Identifying and addressing the needs of the “high-opportunity patients”—those with modifiable conditions and preventable, avoidable, and unnecessary hospitalizations and institutionalizations—will both improve care and ensure greater value for public resources. Governors across the country are recognizing that their ability to undertake coverage expansions is directly related to better managing care for those who are driving most of Medicaid’s costs. The *Rethinking Care Program* (see other side for a program description) is structured to capture and spread best practices to states and other purchasers across the country struggling to improve care for high-need, high-cost beneficiaries.



Source: Sommers A. and Cohen M. *Medicaid’s High Cost Enrollees: How Much Do They Drive Program Spending?* Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured, March 2006.

NATIONAL PLATFORM

National Integrated Care Learning Network (NICLN)

- *Participants:* National/state thought leaders, practitioners, policymakers, purchasers, and health services researchers
- *Funders:* Philanthropy [e.g., Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), Kaiser Permanente (KP)]; government

National Advisory Committee

Technical Workgroups

- Clinical
- ROI
- Consumer/Workforce

Consulting Team

- Clinical
- Evaluation
- Actuarial

IMPLEMENTATION PLATFORMS

Regional Integrated Care Collaboratives (RICC)

- *Participants:* Multiple stakeholders (regional: Medicaid agency, health plans, local foundations; national: CHCS and potential partners)
- *Goals:* (1) Design, test, and disseminate care management models/tools for complex patients; (2) Create dynamic peer learning networks to share best practices at both a regional (depth) and national (breadth) level
- *Target populations:* Top 5%, multimorbid, persons with disabilities, dual eligibles
- *Funders:* Philanthropy (e.g. RWJF, KP); conversion foundations (e.g., New York State Health Foundation); and government

RICC 1 - NY

- 5 pilots
- Target: subsets of multi-morbid patients
- 1st Quarter 2008

RICC 2 – CO

- 2 pilots
- Target: 1,000 high-risk, high-cost SSI patients
- 1st Quarter 2008

RICCs 3-8

- 2 pilots/site
- 1,000 patients/pilot
- Target: Top 5%
- June – December 2008

TESTING & LEARNING COMPONENTS

Identification/Stratification

- Tools/Strategies*
- Predictive Models
 - Health Risk Assessments

Intervention

- Tools/Strategies*
- Interactive Care Plan
 - Multidisciplinary Care Team
 - Physical/Behavioral Integration

Evaluation

- Tools/Strategies*
- Rapid-cycle Micro-experiments
 - Randomized Controlled Trials

Payment/Financing

- Tools/Strategies*
- Care Management/ Medical Home Payments
 - Levels of Risk (full, partial)