

NEW HAMPSHIRE

HEALTH INNOVATION THROUGH SIM



ABOUT SIM

The [State Innovation Models \(SIM\) Initiative](#) is sponsored by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation, and provides financial and technical support to states for the development and testing of state-led transformation models. SIM focuses on multi-payer health care payment and service delivery reform to improve health system performance, increase quality of care, and decrease costs for all residents of participating states, including Medicare, Medicaid, and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) beneficiaries.



Photo courtesy of the New Hampshire Division of Travel and Tourism

THE FRAMEWORK

New Hampshire has received a SIM planning award intended to help connect existing transformation efforts, identify challenges and opportunities, and unite leadership to meet the critical health care needs of New Hampshire residents. SIM will accelerate progress in our state by developing an accountable and integrated, regionally-based model for health that:

- Meets the “Triple Aim” of transformation
- Improves the quality and efficiency of health care delivery
- Expands the use of health information technology
- Leads local population health improvement efforts

Health Systems Engineering

New Hampshire's proposed SIM framework is built on a vision of regionally coordinated care efforts that aim for measurable outcomes while providing local flexibility and support for innovation. New Hampshire's unique concept for this plan is the development of Regional

Healthcare Cooperative Extensions (RHCE).

“Our approach recognizes the unique innovative capacity, infrastructure needs and public health goals at the regional and community level in ensuring that every citizen has access to high quality, coordinated care.”
— Governor Maggie Hassan

As agricultural extensions supported and transformed farming practices in reducing inefficiencies and food scarcity, RHCE will support efforts that improve care, improve health, and reduce costs. RHCEs are envisioned as hubs from which providers can access guidance, consultation and assistance to re-engineer local health systems. RHCE's will not be a new, top-down layer of government or regulation; they will be created and funded within existing resources, in a manner that is efficient, sensible, and value added. Eventually local or regional grants are envisioned—funded through the savings generated by health transformation efforts. Reduction in costs is a high priority component of this model.

Expand & Improve Use of Data

Health care has lagged far behind many other industries in harnessing the capabilities of information technology to improve services, knowledge, communication,



outcomes, quality, and efficiency. Better use of information across health systems will power New Hampshire's transformation efforts and improve health from the ground up. Information exists in every facet of health care, and it can be coordinated and harnessed to improve outcomes and reduce costs through:

- Payment models built on value and outcomes rather than volume and regulatory compliance
- Enabling clinicians to analyze their patient population, understand who needs help and proactively provide needed care
- Incorporating psycho-social determinants of health and patient preferences into care
- Assessing and incorporating patient experience of care, and population health into clinical practice

The SIM plan includes opportunities to expand an Open Data Initiative that will bring together existing information sources to unlock the potential of coordinated analytics to improve patient care and outcomes across the state.

Improve Population Health

While the health care system is largely focused on acute issues, tests, and procedures, population health factors such as tobacco use, substance use, obesity, diabetes, asthma, behavioral health problems, and adverse childhood experiences are the ultimate drivers of system costs, and negative health outcomes.

The health of New Hampshire's population requires the coordination of providers, hospitals, government, public health agencies, payers, and non-profit organizations. Until now, their efforts have been largely segmented. We must be jointly accountable for improvements in the health of our population. Coordinated efforts should be localized, reflecting the needs and culture of the local community while being rooted in evidence and cost effectiveness.

SIM planning will unite population health goals, the New Hampshire State Health Improvement Plan, and community priorities with improvements in the medical health system to achieve better health outcomes and cost reductions.

HOW THE SIM PLANNING PROCESS WILL WORK

Under the guidance of the Governor's Advisory Board, citizen workgroups will focus on five key areas of health transformation, consistent with the framework of the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services' SIM proposal. Each workgroup will identify issues and develop recommendations, define metrics for evaluating progress, and identify key implementation steps for New Hampshire's health transformation efforts. Workgroup recommendations will form the components of a final SIM plan, to be approved by the Governor's Advisory Board.

Practice Transformation

The Practice Transformation Workgroup will identify potential models, goals, and metrics for supporting and accelerating primary care practice transformation.

Workgroup goals:

- Achieve consensus on principles for primary care practice transformation
- Review existing primary care practice transformation models and make a recommendation regarding model(s) best suited to New Hampshire's needs
- Develop criteria to assure measurable progress in practice transformation and recommend metrics to measure transformation

Health Information Technology (HIT)

The HIT Workgroup will operate on the premise that coordinated use of HIT has the potential to improve patient care and experience, increase provider efficiency and effectiveness, reduce the use of unnecessary services, and help identify and address gaps in care.

Workgroup goals:

- Improve the use of health information exchange
- Create an open data resource for greater transparency, data-driven quality improvement, and research
- Develop a consolidated process for clinical quality measure reporting with real time feedback capacity for providers
- Improve electronic health record adoption across the state

Payment Reform

The Payment Reform Workgroup will focus on practice-level change facilitated by alternative payment models, and focus on achieving outcomes and value. This workgroup will identify advanced payment models for New Hampshire by developing economic models and fostering collaboration between the state, private payers, large employers, providers, consumers, and other stakeholders.

Workgroup goals:

- Develop an overarching financial model for statewide healthcare finance and payment reform
- Design a value based reimbursement program(s) to improve population health across New Hampshire and reduce costs
- Identify alternative payment methodologies to align multi-payer and other financial incentives and support collaboration and coordination of care
- Design a method to track cost savings from value based reimbursement innovations
- Identify opportunities and models to finance RHCE functions
- Design an approach to monitor and evaluate changes in total cost of care from multiple stakeholder perspectives

Governance

The Governance Workgroup will focus on the development of regional approaches to transformation including roles, functions, relationships, authorities, and other governance issues related to transformation in a regional context.

Workgroup goals:

- Define organizational structures and capacities necessary to support and dispense resources (e.g. health systems engineering, health information exchange (HIE) support, small grants for practice change) accountability and best practices (include staffing and board membership)
- Position regional efforts to champion innovation and facilitate change
- Consider organizational relationships to existing or planned regional structures, local governments and service agencies
- Identify local or regional outcomes that improve health equity and reduce health disparities

Community Initiatives

The Community Initiatives Workgroup is focused on development of a model process to generate, implement, and evaluate local health initiatives that improve population health. The process and the initiatives should be data driven, evidence-based, and community informed, and work in alignment with regional transformation efforts as well as the State Health Improvement Plan.

Workgroup goals:

- Develop an overarching framework for regional, community driven population health improvement initiatives
- Define requirements and a process to generate and update regional population health improvement plans consistent with New Hampshire's transformation efforts and State Health Improvement Plan
- Design a process to generate novel ideas that can be supported and funded through transformation efforts
- Identify mechanisms to support and measure effective collaborations between community resources, public health, medical providers and others
- Identify key stakeholders for regional population health improvement efforts and obtain their feedback on the draft plan

GET INVOLVED

The SIM planning process will include key informant interviews, public surveys, and town meetings to engage New Hampshire citizens and elicit a broad range of views, ideas, and direction to inform the plan.

The DHHS SIM proposal is a set of ideas focused on meeting the Triple Aim of health transformation in a manner that is unique to New Hampshire. The involvement of citizens, policymakers, providers, payers, and other stakeholders will ultimately determine the model and mechanisms for transforming our state's systems to improve health outcomes and transform care.

For more information on how you can be involved in the planning process, please contact:

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