

**STATE QUALITY IMPROVEMENT INSTITUTE  
WASHINGTON UPDATE  
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**WHAT IS THE LATEST PROGRESS YOUR STATE TEAM HAS MADE IN ITS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT EFFORTS?**

Since the last progress update in November the bulk of work associated with the Quality Institute project has focused on:

- a. *Report to the Legislature:* As directed by the 2008 Washington State Legislature in Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 2549, on December 15 we distributed the final report of our interagency assessment of opportunities for changing payment practices for the State, as well as other payers, in ways that would better support development and maintenance of primary care practice settings. The report also documented progress on the Legislative requirement to develop a medical home collaborative to promote adoption of medical homes in a variety of primary care practice settings. The report can be downloaded from: <https://rcpt.yousendit.com/635049940/42dddb74d9d887927e9ca8d83bf3903b>. To move forward on the multi-payer pilot program, in light of the current fiscal challenges, the most important next steps include:
  - Finding a neutral, respected convener to bring affected groups together and get commitments to implement a multi-payer pilot program within a reasonable time period. To that end State staff met with the Washington CEO Forum, Puget Sound Health Alliance, and other key stakeholders. Response has been quite enthusiastic and input to the payment report extremely helpful.
  - Ensuring broader links to public and private medical home initiatives that may enrich the pilot design.
- b. *Governor's "A" team:* Discussions continued to link findings from the payment report with the Governor's vision for a better health care system. Payment reform is critical for improving the organization and delivery of care, initially targeting coordination of care for individuals with chronic conditions.
- c. *Puget Sound Health Alliance:* The second Community Checkup report was released in November. It is available at: <http://www.wacommunitycheckup.org/>

**WHAT IS SOMETHING YOUR STATE TEAM HAS LEARNED AS IT WORKS TO IMPLEMENT THE QUALITY IMPROVEMENT EFFORTS OUTLINED IN YOUR FINAL ACTION PLAN?**

- a. As a starting place for a multi-payer pilot program, substantial agreement already exists on many design elements. Recognizing that primary care practices are at different stages in their ability to engage in a pilot to advance their medical home status, these elements include:
  - *A phased approach to payment of practices* initially and over time; to pilot participants and to the degree of accountability for which each practice is held
  - *Medical home priorities* such as care coordination, health information technology for coordination and decision support, patient activation, and some form of organizational structure that promotes relationships and mechanisms for working across providers and settings
  - *Performance accountability* that targets enhanced provider-patient communication, improved patient experience, fewer unnecessary ER visits and hospital admissions for example.

**WHAT HAS YOUR STATE TEAM BEEN CHALLENGED BY DURING THIS PROCESS?**

With a projected State budget deficit for the next fiscal biennium approaching \$6 billion, and immediate fiscal issues in the current biennium, the Governor's proposed budget leaves little room for public resources directed

towards the design and development of a multi-payer pilot. In addition, as the Governor's second term of office begins it is a natural time for cabinet changes that can impact the momentum of previous initiatives. Our challenge will continue to be related to making the most of public-private partnership opportunities to move payment reform ahead.