



Connecticut Health Quality Connections

Working together to improve the quality of healthcare in Connecticut

Connecticut Health Plans and Physicians Join Forces to Improve Health Quality

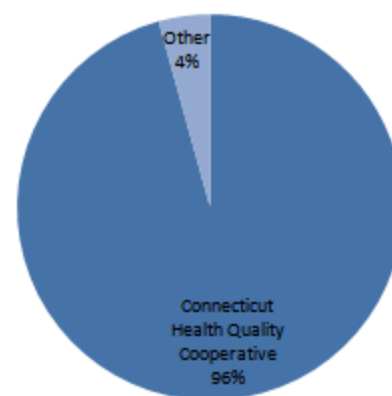
The **Connecticut Health Quality Cooperative** is a new coalition of Connecticut health care organizations formed to provide physicians with better information to improve the quality of care for patients. This collaboration represents a unique joint commitment to push for better health care through shared information and goals.

Through this organization, participating health plans will work together to combine their patient claims data based on specific quality measurement data. The resulting collection will provide physicians with benchmark reports and peer comparisons on a statewide basis. This information coupled with resources for continuous quality improvement will assist physicians in maintaining and improving the quality of medical care for Connecticut residents.

Dr. Angelo Carrabba, Chairman of the Board of eHealthConnecticut and Past President of the CSMS, issued this statement: "This collaboration is the first of its type in Connecticut, where physicians and health plans are at the same table determining how best to measure and improve health care quality. It also lays the foundation for a statewide information exchange, which will open up a new world of opportunity for increasing patient safety, and health care quality. The physician-patient relationship will be a cornerstone of the project and the data may be used to maintain or improve patient care delivered in physician offices."

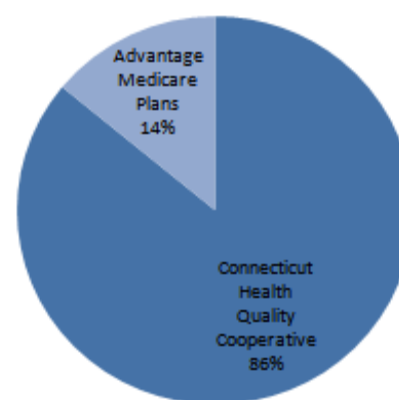
This innovative model is being piloted throughout the U.S. health care system. The initial focus will be on diabetes, coronary artery disease, asthma, and several preventive measures. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that diabetes affects 7.3%, hypertension almost 26.2% and asthma approximately 14.1% of all Connecticut residents (2007 BRFSS).

Commercially Insured in CT



Source: CT Dept. of Insurance: A Comparison of Managed Care Organizations in CT, October 2007

% Medicare Members



Source: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services State/County/Contract Enrollment Report, accessed online August, 2008

For many physicians, this will be the first analytical tool available to them to assess their practice patterns based on combined information from multiple health plans, including Medicare. Long term, the program may evolve to also engage and educate Connecticut citizens on these quality reports so they can make more informed health care decisions.

eHealthConnecticut Designated as a Chartered Value Exchange

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services designated eHealthConnecticut, Inc. and 10 other community collaborators as Chartered Value Exchanges (CVEs) - representing local collaborations of health care providers, employers, insurers, and consumers working jointly to improve care and make quality and price information widely available. CVE designation will provide eHealthConnecticut with access to information from Medicare that gauges the quality of care that physicians provide to patients. These performance measurement results may be combined with data from the Connecticut Health Quality Cooperative to produce a more comprehensive guide to the quality of care in Connecticut. In addition, eHealthConnecticut will join a nationwide Learning Network sponsored by the HHS Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. This network will provide peer-to-peer learning experiences and technical assistance opportunities through facilitated meetings face-to-face and on the web providing the Connecticut Health Quality Cooperative with the resources necessary to continually improve its efforts to provide Connecticut residents with the highest quality of care.

For more information about Chartered Value Exchanges, please visit <http://www.hhs.gov/news>.

Members of the Connecticut Health Quality Cooperative

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