

## February BPHC Update

### Quality Improvement Awards

Health Resources and Services Administration recently announced \$63.3 million in Affordable Care Act funding to 1,153 health centers in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and 7 U.S. territories to recognize health center achievements in providing high quality, comprehensive care. Health centers will use these funds to expand current quality improvement systems and infrastructure, and improve primary care service delivery in the communities they serve. Health centers were recognized in a number of different areas. Those related to improvement in childhood immunizations were:

- a. Clinical Quality Improvers: 10% or greater improvement on clinical measures from 2013-2014.
  - i. 243 health centers received awards for improvement in childhood immunization rates
- b. Health Center Quality Leaders: The top 30% of all health centers who achieved the best overall clinical outcomes based on an adjusted quartile scale.
  - i. 310 health centers received awards for improvement in childhood immunization rates
- c. National Quality Leaders: Health centers meeting or exceeding national benchmarks for chronic disease management, preventative care (including immunization rates), and perinatal/prenatal care.
  - i. 61 health centers received awards

Health centers receiving funds are to use them to:

- Develop and improve quality systems and infrastructure
  - trainings
  - developing policies and procedures
  - data analysis
- Develop and improve care delivery
  - Tracking of patient data and services
  - Clinical integration of other services (oral health, HIV care, etc.)
  - Patient engagement and education.

For more information: <http://www.hrsa.gov/about/news/pressreleases/150825qualityimprovement.html>

### Uniform Data System (UDS) Changes

In order to modernize our data collection methods, The Bureau of Primary Health Care is proposing to revise its clinical quality measures (CQMs), including the childhood immunization measure<sup>i</sup>, to align with CMS electronic specifications (e-specifications). Changes to the current immunization CQM will include:

- 1) Age range to will now include children 2 years of age instead of 3 years of age
- 2) Add 1 Hepatitis A dose, 2-3 rotavirus doses, and 2 seasonal influenza doses to the current measure description

Rational:

- Ninety-eight percent of community health centers utilize an electronic medical records system, but only half use it to collect CQM data that is reported to UDS.
- Reduces reporting burdens by making it easier for health centers to extract data from the electronic health records
- Improving data integrity
- In line with other planned UDS changes (phase out of chart sampling, UDS E-Portal).

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<sup>i</sup> The current UDS clinical quality measure (CQM) aligns with HP 2020 goal IID-8