



Primary Care Workgroup

Principles for Defining Primary Care

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DRAFT



Key Takeaways From 3/13

- ▶ Workgroup members tended to support
 - A modular or stackable definition
 - Intrastate geographic reporting
 - Aligning with other state and national definitions as a secondary goal not immediate priority

- ▶ Workgroup members had questions regarding
 - Services related to behavioral health and OB-GYN sometimes included as primary care
 - To be discussed today
 - Services typically included as minor procedures
 - Examples include skin biopsies, lesion/cyst removal, and nail care
 - To be discussed today



Include or Exclude Behavioral Health Services and Providers?

Exclude

Some definitions exclude all behavioral health services and providers

Include when integrated with PC

Some definitions only include screening and collaborative care performed by the primary care provider or when the service is provided as part of an integrated behavioral health arrangement

Include a broad set of BH services, providers

Other definitions include a broader set of behavioral health services, such as counseling sessions with social workers and clinicians specializing in behavioral health services

Include or Exclude OB-GYN Services and Providers?



Exclude

Some definitions exclude all OB-GYN services and providers

Include when performed by PCP

Many definitions include a limited set of OB-GYN services such as preventive screenings and insertion/removal of contraceptive devices when performed by a primary care provider

Include a broad set of OB-GYN services, providers

Other definitions include a broader set of OB-GYN services, including maternity care

These definitions also may include obstetricians and gynecologists as primary care providers

Restrict by Place of Service (e.g., retail clinic, urgent care)?



Define narrowly

Some definitions define place of service narrowly and may not consider care provided at schools, retail clinics or urgent care facilities to be primary care

Define broadly

A definition may define place of service broadly – including schools, retail clinics and/or urgent care– but still list the places of services deemed primary care

These definitions may choose to exclude emergency rooms, assisted living centers and nursing homes

Do not restrict

Some definitions do not restrict by place of service

If a service defined as primary care is performed by a primary care provider, it is included regardless of where it is performed

Include or Exclude Pharmacy Spending in Denominator?



Exclude

Many definitions exclude pharmacy spending in the denominator

Many states make this decision because they lack good information on pharmacy rebates, which results in pharmacy spending appearing higher than reality

Include net of rebates

If rebate data is available, states can include pharmacy spending *net of rebates*

Include gross of rebates

If rebate data is not available, pharmacy spending may be reported as gross of rebates

However, this may result in primary care spending as a percent of total spending appearing lower than reality

Include or Exclude Non-Fee-For-Service Spending?



Exclude

Many definitions exclude non-fee-for-service spending, often due to a lack of available data

Include

A growing number of primary care spending definitions include non-fee-for-service spending as more dollars flow through value-based payments

These definitions allocate only a portion of certain non-fee-for-service payments (such as risk settlements) to primary care

Revisit in 2024

Maryland does not currently have this information available but could begin including non-fee-for-service data in its primary care definition beginning in 2025



Considerations and Action Items

Considerations

- ▶ Determine measurement approach (clinical services):
 - Core services; or
 - Core services and modular elements
- ▶ Decide upon the financial approach (future meeting)
 - Annual spending measurement
 - Annual incremental increases
 - Fixed target percent

Action Items

- ▶ Complete a financial analysis based on:
 - Select core services
 - Core services and modular elements

Questions

