



Connecticut

# State Innovation Model

May 29, 2015

## Local SIM-aligned Payment Reform Improves Quality & Reduces Cost

This month, Cigna reported that its value-based payment reform in Connecticut has led to improved quality and reduced cost among its participating medical groups.

Some of their successes include:

- Lower avoidable emergency department utilization rates
- Better performance on diabetes metrics
- Increased breast cancer screenings
- Curbed medical inflation rate

Cigna's value-based payment program, called [Cigna Collaborative Care](#), rewards a medical group if it meets targets for improving quality and reducing costs, much like the SIM-funded value-based payment initiative currently being designed (Medicaid Quality Improvement & Shared Savings Program).

Cigna's program helps close gaps in care, such as missed health screenings or prescription refills, and increases follow up care. The medical group coordinates all of the patient's care. A registered nurse care coordinator works with individuals, especially those with chronic conditions, to help them schedule appointments, provide them health education, and refer them to disease management programs.

*"What matters most to our doctors is having the opportunity to further improve the lives of our patients by providing the highest quality, well-coordinated care,*

*We're pleased to collaborate with Cigna in this approach to health care, with its focus on value and improving the patient experience. Together we will deliver even better coordinated health care at a lower cost to the community."*

*– Edward Roberts, executive director of ECPHO & CINECT, as reported by [Cigna](#)*

Cigna has 11 such initiatives in Connecticut including with Day Kimball of Putnam, Community Medical Group of New Haven, and Eastern CT Physician Hospital Organization.

Participating medical groups look for innovative ways to improve quality and reduce cost. As an example, Farmington-based ProHealth Physicians, which treats about 30,000 Cigna customers, opened urgent care clinics in areas where people have high emergency department usage, so that they can have better and more convenient access to care. Those Cigna customers with ProHealth doctors had a 7% lower rate of using the emergency department than the rest of the Connecticut market.

Connecticut's Medicaid program is also making strides towards value-based payment. As part of the SIM initiative, the Department of Social Services launched a process, in consultation with the Care Management Committee of the Medical Assistance Program Oversight Council, to build on the existing, successful Person-Centered Medical Home initiative by planning a new shared savings arrangement - the Medicaid Quality Improvement Shared Savings Program (MQISSP).

Under MQISSP, the Department will competitively select Federally Qualified Health Centers and advanced networks (medical groups, independent practice associations, integrated networks). These providers will be charged with improving both clinical outcomes and also working with the community organizations that support the whole-person needs of Medicaid beneficiaries. If MQISSP providers are successful in achieving these results, they will be eligible to receive a portion of any cost savings that are accomplished. MQISSP aims to positively impact nearly 30% of Medicaid beneficiaries in the first wave in 2016.

**Sources:**

[Eastern Connecticut Physician Hospital Organization Collaborates With Cigna to Improve Health and Lower Costs](#) (Cigna)

[Cigna: Three Medical Groups In Connecticut Reduced Costs](#) (Hartford Courant)

[Connecticut Medical Practices Collaborating With Cigna are Having Success Improving Quality and Lowering Medical Costs](#) (Business Wire)