

Primary care for a healthier Washington

The primary care system across Washington is under significant stress. Washingtonians struggle to find appointments with primary care providers in their area and often go without recommended health screenings and other needed care. Without action, a fragile primary care system will lead to worsening health disparities, increased health care costs, and long-term diminished access to and quality of care for Washington residents. There is abundant evidence that investing in primary care leads to improved care and health outcomes across the entire health care system.

Primary Care Transformation Initiative

The Primary Care Transformation Initiative is Washington's comprehensive strategy to strengthen and support primary care through aligned payment methodologies, increased investment, and care delivery transformation. The Health Care Authority (HCA) co-designed the strategy with Washington health care providers, insurance plans, employers, health insurance purchasers, subject-matter experts, and others.

The goal of these transformation efforts is to achieve the quadruple aim of enhancing patient experience, improving population health, reducing costs, and improving the work life of health care providers, including clinicians and staff.

The Primary Care Transformation Initiative includes:

Multi-payer Collaborative Primary Care Transformation Model

Washington payers have developed a set of aligned payer accountabilities that aim to move toward high-quality advanced primary care through advanced payment models and supports for primary care practices.

Washington Primary Care Practice Recognition program

Primary Care Practice Recognition (PCPR) is a process to evaluate provider capabilities. Based on this evaluation, providers are assigned a level rating from 1 to 3. This process has several intended outcomes, including:

- Provide transparency of the capabilities of primary care providers and the broader primary care system.
- Help payers prioritize supports they will give providers in the model.
- Provide a mechanism for providers to request transformation funding.
- Establish eligibility for participation in different payment models.

Making Care Primary

Making Care Primary (MCP) is a 10.5-year, value-based care model for Medicare beneficiaries operated by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Washington was selected as one of 8 states participating in the model with the goals of achieving multi-payer alignment, improving health equity outcomes, and more.

HCA intends to align and partner with CMS to accelerate change and achieve the shared goals of implementing a more comprehensive and long-lasting primary care model tailored to the needs of Washington residents.