

## Ohio Community Health Centers on the Path to PCMH

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The Ohio Association of Community Health Centers (OACHC) is a not-for-profit professional trade association representing Ohio's Federally Qualified Health Centers (i.e., FQHCs, or community health centers). OACHC's Mission is to ensure access to high-quality affordable health care for all Ohioans through the growth and development of Ohio's Community Health Centers.

OACHC represents Ohio's 41 Community Health Centers at over 165 locations, including 3 mobile units in 46 of Ohio's 88 counties. Collectively, Community Health Centers are the largest health care system in the nation, and are considered the best program within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services ([www.expectmore.gov](http://www.expectmore.gov)).

At OACHC, we have created the Ohio Learning Community (OLC) as a resource and outreach for technical assistance for all community health centers. Medical Home, the first program developed, is a six month program focused on practice transformation and NCQA recognition. Fifteen health centers throughout the state have signed up for the first cohort.

The program kicked off in full force in June and will go through the rest of the year. OACHC contracted with NCQA to provide a live 90 minute webinar on the NCQA standards. Every month they focus on one standard. Two weeks after the NCQA standard call, we have a 90 minute "coaching" call. This call focuses on the previous standard and the transformation that needs to occur in order to meet the standards. OACHC contracted with the Health Collaborative in Cincinnati to lead these calls. The program will include some face to face meetings, telephone support and one on one help, as needed. The sessions have been very interactive, with participants (over 45 on every call) asking a lot of questions. OACHC created a web page on our web site to house all of the resources that are a part of the program (slides, standards, tools, etc.). We have also created a separate listserv with all participants so they can ask questions of each other, and we can share information and reminders about the upcoming webinars. The program has been very successful so far. We anticipate that over half of the centers will be ready to file an application with NCQA by the end of the year.

But even more important, we are trying to focus on practice transformation and getting the foundation of patient centered care ingrained first, so the application to NCQA should come more easily. At the end of the day, it is not just a plaque on the wall, but a true transformation in the way we deliver care to our patients.



**The Ohio Patient-Centered Primary Care Collaborative (OPCPCC)** is a coalition of primary care providers, insurers, employers, consumer advocates, government officials and public health professionals. They are joining together to create a more effective and efficient model of healthcare delivery in Ohio. That model of care is the Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH).

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OACHC is also very proud to announce that one of our centers, Neighborhood Family Practice in Cleveland, was recently awarded with Level 3 2011 NCQA recognition! Neighborhood was the first FQHC to achieve Level 3 in Ohio and the second in the nation! Way to go Neighborhood Health Center, you have set the bar for all of us!

For more information contact Nancy Terwoord at [OACHC@nterwoord@ohiochc.org](mailto:OACHC@nterwoord@ohiochc.org).



## Dr. Patrick Ecklar Champions PCMH Model

As chair of the PCMH Education Advisory Group (EAG) formed under House Bill 198, Dr. Ecklar is a strong advocate of Patient-Centered Medical Homes. The EAG has been focused on organizing a pilot project in which 50 practices will use care teams to coordinate the health needs of patients. "Health care needs a new direction, where healthcare physicians and primary care clinicians move toward the concept of patient-centric care, away from seeing as many patients as they possibly can in one day," said Dr. Patrick Ecklar.



any harder," Dr. Ecklar told a crowd of 300 attendees in the spring at a Columbus HIT event, Patient Care: Connecting the Dots in Ohio sponsored by the Ohio Health Information Partnership. Amusing the audience with anecdotes about the challenges of primary care physicians, as well as the need for payment reform, Dr. Ecklar focused the discussion on patients and health care costs in the future. Recently, his PCMH work and training of medical students and nurse practitioners in patient-centric internal medicine led to the Ohio State Medical Association giving him the Physicians Award for Patient Advocacy.

As an internist for 33 years, currently at MetroWest Internal Medicine within the Mt. Carmel Health System, Dr. Ecklar said health care must shift toward better care coordination and preventative care through the patient-centered medical home. "We have milked the status quo. We've tweaked it, primed it. You can't see any more patients. You can't do any more procedures. You just can't go any faster or work

For the full story and video, go to <http://www.clinisync.org/public/index.php/media/presentations/548-the-patient-centered-medical-home-model-a-new-direction-for-healthcare.html>

## Spotlight on Regional PCMH Efforts

On July 24 2012, over 150 leaders from business, government, health care and the social sector gathered in Columbus to collectively learn about local, state and national implications of the Supreme Court rulings on Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA or ACA). The learning session was hosted by Access HealthColumbus, which serves as a catalyst, convener and coordinator of collaborative health care improvement projects in Central Ohio.

Slides from the learning session are available on the Access HealthColumbus website.

- To view the issue framing slides, go to: [http://www.accesshealthcolumbus.org/images/pdf/Documents/patient\\_centered/2012q3-framing-slides.pdf](http://www.accesshealthcolumbus.org/images/pdf/Documents/patient_centered/2012q3-framing-slides.pdf)
- To view the legal briefing slides, go to: [http://www.accesshealthcolumbus.org/images/pdf/Documents/patient\\_centered/2012q3-briefing-slides.pdf](http://www.accesshealthcolumbus.org/images/pdf/Documents/patient_centered/2012q3-briefing-slides.pdf)

The next Access Health Columbus learning session is scheduled for Friday, December 7th from 8-10:30AM at the OSU Fawcett Center. Please visit the Access HealthColumbus website to learn more at [www.accesshealthcolumbus.org](http://www.accesshealthcolumbus.org)

### OPCPCC Conference

## Save the Date

The OPCPCC Coordinating Council is planning a conference that will be held in the Columbus area on Friday, November 30, 2012. Topics that will be included in the conference will be:

- National, state, and regional PCMH briefings
- Ohio PCMH regional activities
- 2013 OPCPCC Learning Center Action Plans

By the end of the conference, participants should be able to:

- Demonstrate increased knowledge and awareness of national, state, and regional PCMH efforts.
- Envision potential actions that can be taken to accelerate the spread of PCMH throughout Ohio.
- Assist in the final development of a 2013 Action Plan for the OPCPCC Learning Centers.

Additional information regarding the conference will be available soon. More information regarding OPCPCC is available on the web at <http://www.odh.ohio.gov/landing/medicalhomes/opcpcc.aspx>

# CMMI Comprehensive Primary Care Initiative Update

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) selected five hundred primary care practices to participate in the Comprehensive Primary Care initiative (CPCI) in seven selected regions throughout the country. This represents over two thousand primary care doctors and nurse practitioners in seven markets across the country. Seventy-five of the selected practices, which include 261 providers, are in the Cincinnati-Dayton Region. CMMI estimates that 44,500 Medicare beneficiaries in this region will be served through this initiative. Since it is a multi-payer initiative and there are 10 payers involved, it is estimated that it will also include an additional 250,000 commercial, Medicaid and Medicare advantage members.

Under the Comprehensive Primary Care Initiative, CMS will pay primary care practices a care management fee to support enhanced, coordinated services on behalf of Medicare fee-for-service beneficiaries. Additionally, other insurance plans are also offering enhanced payment to primary care practices through this initiative, including ten total payers for the Cincinnati-Dayton region. The enhanced payments are designed to support practices in providing high-quality primary care on behalf of their members.

This four year public-private partnership is designed to test a model of improved access to quality health care at lower costs. The 500 practices were selected through a competitive application process and will start delivering enhanced health care services this fall.

The region for CPCI in Ohio can be viewed by selecting "CPCI – Cincinnati-Dayton, OH Region" on the Regions selection feature on the interactive map on the ODH web site at <http://publicapps.odh.ohio.gov/publicinfo/publicinfo7.aspx?item=70>



To learn more about the Comprehensive Primary Care initiative and view the participating primary practices, payers, and markets please visit <http://innovation.cms.gov/initiatives/Comprehensive-Primary-Care-Initiative>.

## H.B. 198 Pilot Project Update

The two-year H.B. 198 PCMH Education Pilot Project is moving forward with 50 sites in the northwest, southwest, southeast, and east central regions of the state. One of the 50 pilot sites, Integrated Medical Group in Beavercreek, has also been selected to participate in the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) Comprehensive Primary Care initiative. The 50 participating pilot sites received the Memorandum of Understanding from TransformMED on August 27, which better defines the project and roles of TransformMED and the pilot sites. TransformMED will be hosting the regional kick-off meetings for the 50 practices participating in the H.B. 198 PCMH pilot sites the week of September 24.

## Provider maps show PCMH spread in Ohio

There is no doubt that PCMH activity in Ohio is spreading. There are now 153 practices in Ohio who have achieved PCMH recognition, four through the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC) and the remaining through the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA). Numerous other sites in Ohio are working towards achieving PCMH recognition, including the 50 H.B. 198 pilot sites.



The ODH web site houses an interactive provider map that provides a clear visual of PCMH sites in Ohio. Amongst other provider designations, the map enables the user to select from a variety of PCMH categories that will be marked with pins on the map to show geographical locations of sites. Currently, the following PCMH designations can be selected to map:

- PCMH – AAAHC Recognized
- PCMH – NCQA 2008 Recognized, Level 1
- PCMH – NCQA 2008 Recognized, Level 2
- PCMH – NCQA 2008 Recognized, Level 3
- PCMH – NCQA 2011 Recognized, Level 2
- PCMH – NCQA 2011 Recognized, Level 3
- PCMH – HB 198 pilot sites

The map enables the user to zoom in and out on the map to view the entire state or close-ups of various regions of the state. Details regarding a specific site can be viewed by clicking on the corresponding pin.

PCMH activity on the map is updated quarterly. The interactive map may be viewed on the ODH web site at <http://publicapps.odh.ohio.gov/publicinfo/publicinfo7.aspx?item=70>

## National Primary Care Week

National Primary Care Week is an annual event to highlight the importance of primary care and bring health care professionals together to discuss and learn about generalist and interdisciplinary health care, particularly its impact on and importance to underserved populations. This year, National Primary Care Week will be observed on October 8-12, 2012. This year's theme, The Future of Health Care, is intended to encompass a wide variety of topics, including primary care in medical education and health care policy and reform. Learn more about National Primary Care Week at <http://www.amsa.org/AMSA/Homepage/Events/NPCW.aspx>.

## Announcements and Upcoming Events

**Sept. 28 — 30, 2012:** 2012 Family Medicine Education Consortium (FMEC) Northeast Regional meeting in Cleveland (<http://www.fmec.net/>)

**October 8-12, 2012** National Primary Care Week

**October 31, 2012:** Patient-Centered Medical Home Education Advisory Group meeting

**November 30, 2012:** Ohio Patient-Centered Primary Care Collaborative Conference

If you have ideas or would like to contribute an article for an upcoming newsletter, please send your ideas [PCMH@odh.ohio.gov](mailto:PCMH@odh.ohio.gov) or call Amy Bashforth at (614)644-9756.