

Rhode Island Quality Institute

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Rhode Island Quality Institute Receives Transforming Clinical Practice Initiative Award
Statewide collaborative will join federal government and other partners in supporting large-scale health care transformation among clinician practices

PROVIDENCE, RI –The Rhode Island Quality Institute (RIQI) is one of 39 health care collaborative networks selected to participate in the Transforming Clinical Practice Initiative, announced yesterday by Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia M. Burwell. RIQI will receive up to \$8.3M over four years to provide technical assistance to help equip clinicians in Rhode Island with tools, information, and network support needed to improve quality of care, increase patients’ access to information, and spend health care dollars more wisely.

“Supporting doctors and other health care professionals to change the way they work is critical to improving quality and spending our health care dollars more wisely,” said Secretary Burwell. “These awards will give patients more of the information they need to make informed decisions about their care and give clinicians access to information and support to improve care coordination and quality outcomes.”

As a Practice Transformation Network, Rhode Island Quality Institute will support 1,500 clinicians to expand their quality improvement capacity, learn from one another, and achieve common goals of improved care, better health, and reduced cost. The network will provide practice transformation assistance, care coordination tools and services, and performance measurement, reporting and evaluation to help participating clinicians meet the initiative’s phases of transformation and associated milestones, clinical and operational results.

“This four year award will allow us to significantly strengthen and expand the support we’ve been able to offer providers through RIQI’s Regional Extension Center (RIREC) and to lever CurrentCare’s data sharing capabilities to achieve the triple aim of better health, better healthcare and lower per capita costs,” said Laura Adams, President and CEO, RIQI. “Moving into new payment models that reward value and not volume is extremely challenging for providers. We’re delighted to be able to offer them the opportunity to be supported by a national network of experts in cooperation with local ‘boots on the ground’ assistance.”

These awards are part of a comprehensive strategy advanced by the Affordable Care Act (ACA) that enables new levels of coordination, continuity, and integration of care, while transitioning volume-driven systems to value-based, patient-centered, health care services. It builds upon successful models

and programs such as the Hospital Value-Based Purchasing Organization Program, Partnership for Patients with Hospital Engagement Networks, and Accountable Care Organizations.

“Our health care system is transitioning toward new payment models that reward health care professionals for providing coordinated, high-quality care. Governor Raimondo’s Working Group for Healthcare Innovation is creating a blueprint for that transition in Rhode Island, and today’s award to Rhode Island Quality Institute is the next step in implementing that plan,” said U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, a leading advocate for health care payment reform who founded RIQI while serving as Rhode Island Attorney General in 2001. Whitehouse wrote a letter in support of RIQI’s application for this funding. “The 1500 Rhode Island clinicians supported by RIQI through this award will be provided with information and tools to navigate and implement new models of care and, ultimately, provide Rhode Islanders with better care at lower cost. Congratulations to the Institute on this federal funding and its continued leadership on delivery system reform.”

For more information on the Transforming Clinical Practice Initiative, please visit:
<http://innovation.cms.gov/initiatives/Transforming-Clinical-Practices/>

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About Rhode Island Quality Institute (RIQI)

RIQI is a center of collaborative innovation that advances health and healthcare transformation. Our mission is to improve the quality, safety and value of healthcare and share knowledge that advances the field of healthcare improvement. RIQI is a 501c3 non-profit organization founded in 2001 and overseen by a Board of Directors comprised of senior health industry leaders from our community, including CEOs of hospitals, health insurers and health-related businesses, along with leaders of consumer groups, academia and government agencies. For more information, visit www.riqi.org.