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Regional Healthcare Partnerships: Roles and Responsibilities

Overview

Regional Healthcare Partnerships are locally-developed confederations that fund the state share of all waiver payments in a partnership. Counties and other entities providing state share will determine how their funds are used in the Regional Healthcare Partnership consistent with waiver requirements. Each Intergovernmental Transfer (IGT) provider controls its own fund use and commitments, provided that participating health-care providers that may be affiliated with the transferring entity adequately document levels of uncompensated care or meet required performance goals.

Regional Healthcare Partnerships create a regional plan as the basis for:

- Voluntarily improving regional access, quality, cost-effectiveness and collaboration.
- Identifying transformation programs, performance metrics, and incentive payments for each participating hospital consistent with the Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) menu of projects.
- Payment of funds (formerly Upper Payment Limit funding) protected under the Texas Healthcare Transformation and Quality Improvement Program 1115 waiver.

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission's approach for Regional Healthcare Partnership development is to provide waiver information, including requirements and opportunities for stakeholder involvement, and allow local communities to propose local partners and areas covered. HHSC's direct facilitation in Regional Healthcare Partnership development will increase as needed to support development of partnerships under the waiver.

Regional Healthcare Partnership Principles

Regional Healthcare Partnership should promote system transformation (improved access, quality, cost-effectiveness, and coordination).

Delivery systems should be developed based on geographic proximity and an ability to efficiently deliver care to regional residents. Specialized providers (such as children's hospitals, trauma hospitals, burn centers, etc.) can and should be included based on delivery system functional needs, even if it is outside the area's geographical boundaries.

Regional Healthcare Partnership and resulting plans should reflect broad inclusion of local stakeholder engagement, including:

Regional Healthcare Partnerships: Roles and Responsibilities Matrix

Stakeholder Type and Definition	General Duties	Regional Healthcare Partnership (RHP) Plan	UC	DSRIP
<p>Intergovernmental Transfer (IGT) Providers</p> <p>Cities, counties, hospital districts, hospital authorities, and possibly academic health science centers that have public funds eligible for state match under the waiver. Also referred to as "IGT contributors."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determines use of its public IGT funding for projects, consistent with state level requirements for split between uncompensated care (UC) and the Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) pool. • Participate in Regional Healthcare Partnership (RHP) planning to receive waiver funding. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selects projects and provides baseline metrics consistent with state RHP Protocol* for DSRIP. • Estimates IGT available for each of four years in RHP plan though no legal commitment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estimates IGT for UC by year. • Provides IGT match for self (if hospital) and sponsored hospitals once UC validated/reported. • Coordinates at its discretion with private hospitals to provide IGT as basis of private hospitals payments for provision of UC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estimates IGT for DSRIP by year. • Works with RHP, state and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) on valuing projects in Demonstration Year 1. • Provides IGT match for payments for self (if hospital) and sponsored hospitals once performance validated. • Performs DSRIP work for own DSRIP projects. • Coordinates at its discretion with private hospitals to provide IGT as basis of private hospitals provision of transformational project. • IGT hospitals may coordinate at their discretion with non-hospital providers for provision of transformation activities and for possible inclusion in RHP plan for which the payment may be included in the IGT hospital's DSRIP plan. • Provides reports to anchoring entity.

* RHP protocol is a document that identifies CMS-approved projects within four categories and also includes performance metrics.

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Stakeholder Type and Definition	General Duties	Regional Healthcare Partnership (RHP) Plan	UC	DSRIP
<p>Anchoring Entities</p> <p>IGT providers with additional roles and responsibilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serves as single point of contact for the RHP with HHSC. • Facilitates RHP meetings with interested IGT contributors in the region and communicates function and purpose of RHPs. • Includes other stakeholders in RHP discussions. • Ensures public meeting as part of development of RHP and prior to submission of final plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensures inclusion of key stakeholders in RHP Plan development. • Coordinates, develops and provides RHP plan to HHSC based on IGT contributing projects consistent with project menus and on IGT contributors' input. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinates required reporting of all project milestones and metrics within RHP for DSRIP to HHSC. • Provides technical assistance to participating providers.
<p>Private Hospitals</p> <p>Private hospitals (without IGT) that choose to participate in waiver program and receive funding.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participates in RHP planning to receive waiver funding • Coordinates with IGT providers to offer transformational services or uncompensated care as basis of receiving sponsored payments. 	<p>Participates in planning process as basis for receiving waiver payments.</p>	<p>Provision of UC serves as basis for UC waiver payments and contingent upon IGT provided by IGT entities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performs transformation project (if in plan) and meets related performance metrics in plan as basis for IGT-funded incentive payments. • Provides reports to anchoring entity.

Regional Healthcare Partnerships: Roles and Responsibilities Matrix

Stakeholder Type and Definition	General Duties	Regional Healthcare Partnership (RHP) Plan	UC	DSRIP
<p>Other Health Care Providers</p> <p>Other non-hospital health care providers like clinics and related service providers with which a participating hospital might contract to meet waiver objectives as a basis for hospital payment.</p>	<p>Coordinates with IGT providers to offer transformational services or UC as basis of receiving payments from hospitals.</p>	<p>May choose to work with IGT providers and private hospitals.</p>	<p>If agreed to by IGT provider that UC activity is included in hospital projects, providers perform UC services, and provide documentation and other information as basis for UC payment from hospital.</p>	<p>If agreed transformation activity included in hospital projects, providers provide documentation and other information as basis for DSRIP payment from hospital.</p>
<p>Other Stakeholders</p> <p>Academic health science centers (not already included as IGT providers), medical associations, children's hospitals, local government partners, and public health regional directors.</p>	<p>May participate in RHP discussions by contacting local RHP anchor directly.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participates in RHP planning meetings as invited by anchor. • May choose to work with IGT providers and private hospitals. 		