



FIRST EDITION

The Primary Care First Model Newsletter

Announcements

Introducing the Primary Care First Newsletter

Welcome to the first issue of *First Edition: the Primary Care First Newsletter*. The Primary Care First (PCF) Model Team will send this publication on a regular basis to keep you informed about the model. The PCF Newsletter will include announcements and updates about the model and the application process, links to newly released resources, and other useful information. If you have not already signed up for the PCF listserv, please [subscribe](#) to ensure you don't miss an issue. Also, please add the listserv email address (cmslists@subscriptions.cms.hhs.gov) to your contact list to avoid PCF messages going to your spam folder.

About Primary Care First

On April 22, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced the launch of Primary Care First, a set of voluntary, five-year payment model options that **reward value and quality by offering innovative payment model structures** to support delivery of advanced primary care. PCF aims to improve quality, improve patient experience of care, and reduce expenditures. The model will achieve these aims by **increasing patient access to advanced primary care services, and has elements specifically designed to support practices caring for patients with complex chronic needs or serious illness.**

There are three ways that primary care practices may participate in PCF:

- **Option 1: PCF General** Practices will increase patient access to advanced primary care services. This option is designed for practices with advanced primary care capabilities that are prepared to accept financial risk in

June 19, 2019 | Issue 1

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Upcoming Events and Milestones

Release of the Application expected soon

June 27th Webinar:
Primary Care First Payments ([register here](#))

July 11th Webinar:
Primary Care First

exchange for flexibility and potential rewards based on practice performance.

- **Option 2: Seriously Ill Population (SIP)** CMS will attribute Seriously Ill Population (SIP) patients lacking a primary care practitioner or care coordination to PCF practices that opt to participate in this model option. This option is designed for practices that have a network of relationships with other care organizations in the community to ensure beneficiaries can access the care best suited to their longer-term needs.
- **Option 3: PCF General & PCF SIP** Available to practices that demonstrate the capabilities to participate in both PCF options and meet eligibility criteria for both payment models.

Countdown to Launch

Timeline

The timeline below shows important events related to the launch of Primary Care First. CMS anticipates releasing a Request for Applications (RFA) and posting a payer Statement of Interest in the coming weeks for the first cohort of practices. Practice applications and interested payers will be solicited during summer/fall 2019. The model will launch in January 2020.



Next Steps

Look out for a Request for Applications (RFA) on the [Primary Care First Website](#) in the coming weeks. The RFA will contain all

Seriously Ill Population
([register here](#))

Model Resources

Visit the [Primary Care First Website](#) to stay up to date with the latest model resources, including:

- [Primary Care First Informational Webcast Slides](#)
- [Primary Care First Fact Sheet](#)
- [Primary Care First Press Release](#)
- ... and more!

application and eligibility requirements, as well as other useful information.

Upcoming Events

Save the Date: Upcoming Webinars

To prepare you and your organization for model application, there are a number of upcoming Primary Care First webinars. These webinars will cover topics such as the Seriously Ill Population model option, model payment structure, and more.

Mark your calendar for upcoming webinars!

Thursday, June 27th at 12 PM EST: Primary Care First Payment Webinar

This event is the first webinar in a two-part series on Primary Care First model payments. This event will discuss the process for calculating Primary Care First model payments, which will include information about beneficiary attribution and model participation overlap. More information about the second event in this payment series will be available soon.

[Register to attend here.](#)

Thursday, July 11th at 3 PM EST: Primary Care First Seriously Ill Population Webinar

This event will cover how the Seriously Ill Population is defined as well as information on eligibility requirements, quality measures, and payment.

[Register to attend here.](#)

Please forward this newsletter to colleagues so they can take part in the events listed above. If you are unable to attend a webinar, the materials presented will become available for download on the [Primary Care First Website](#).

Primary Care First in the News

See below for interesting articles about the model from news sources and periodicals published around the country.

- [Physician proposals inspire new HHS pay models for primary care](#): American Medical Association; April 22, 2019

- [Medicare's Primary Care First model gets bipartisan boost in Senate hearing](#): Modern Healthcare; May 8, 2019
 - [HHS To Implement Pay-For-Performance Models For Primary Care Practices Serving Medicare](#): Forbes; May 10, 2019
 - [CMS Issues Two Alternative Payment Program Models Focused on Primary Care](#): National Law Review; May 10, 2019
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Frequently Asked Questions

How can practices apply to participate in Primary Care First and when is the deadline?

The Primary Care First Request for Applications (RFA) will be available soon and more details about the model and application process will be available at that time. After the RFA is released, CMS will post a link to the online portal to the Primary Care First webpage. Practices will be able to apply via the online portal for an approximately 8-week window. In the meantime, please continue to visit the [Primary Care First Website](#) for educational opportunities, announcements, and updates.

What is the goal of Primary Care First?

Strengthening primary care is critical to an effective health care system. Building on CPC+ Tracks 1 and 2, Primary Care First aims to reduce Medicare spending and preserve or enhance quality of care, including preventing avoidable inpatient hospital admissions through greater access to advanced primary care. Primary Care First has a specific focus on supporting care for patients with multiple complex chronic conditions and serious illnesses. In addition, Primary Care First aims to align financial incentives to eliminate reliance on volume-driven fee-for-service revenue cycle management while increasing accountability for outcomes in primary care, the entry point to the healthcare system for most Americans.

What is advanced primary care?

Advanced Primary Care in Primary Care First is organized through delivery of the five comprehensive primary care functions at the practice level: (1) access and continuity; (2) care management; (3) comprehensiveness and coordination; (4) patient and caregiver engagement; and (5) planned care and population health. The payment structure in Primary Care First

provides a risk-adjusted population-based payment intended to support the delivery of advanced primary care with additional performance-based adjustment linked to outcomes of care. Advanced primary care practices also are proficient in the use of practice and payer data, in order to improve outcomes for patients and reduce costs.

Are materials from the recent Primary Care First informational webinars available for download?

You can find materials presented during the recent informational webinars on the [Primary Care First Website](#) for download.

Have more questions?

Email us at PrimaryCareApply@telligen.com or call 1-833-226-7278

Visit the model website at

<https://innovation.cms.gov/initiatives/primary-care-first-model-options/>

Primary Care First Model

Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation (CMMI)