

Advancing Shared Decision-Making

A Practice/Purchaser/Consumer Partnership

Dirigo Health, through the Maine Quality Forum, will sponsor a pilot to test the feasibility and effectiveness of applying a working definition to shared decision-making (SDM) for use in payment, program recognition and quality measurement. Incentives to participation in SDM by providers and patients will be assessed.

Our interest in Shared Decision-Making

In February 2011, the Maine Quality Forum submitted its Final Report to the Legislature on the use of SDM to improve the quality and cost effectiveness of health care. Major findings included:

- There is evidence that SDM leads to higher quality of care as measured by patient engagement and positive experience of care.
- There is growing national and state interest in making SDM an integral part of the care process.
- Efforts are underway as part of national health reform to support the certification and implementation of SDM.
- There is significant variance in how SDM is defined, practiced and measured.

The Legislative Report recommended a Maine-based pilot to further study operational issues critical to the advancement and spread of SDM in Maine.

Purpose of a Maine-Based SDM Pilot

Despite the development of SDM tools and research showing its benefits to the quality of care, SDM remains under-used. Most SDM initiatives focus on the challenges of its integration into clinical practices. Our Maine-based pilot will focus on how purchasers, working with primary and specialty practices, can advance the use of SDM. Key objectives of the pilot will include:

- Develop a consensus definition of SDM acceptable to clinicians, consumers and purchasers.
- Identify the core metrics for documenting SDM and assessing its effectiveness.
- Develop a payment model that supports SDM.
- Develop and test incentives for providers and patients to participate in SDM
- Determine the supports required for successful SDM implementation and payment.
- Evaluate the impact of SDM on the cost and quality of care.

Our Plan for Implementing a SDM Pilot

- Convene a Work Group of clinicians (primary care and specialists), consumers, purchasers and policymakers to guide the design and implementation of the SDM pilot. [Sept 2011]
- Solicit external funding to support the management, support and evaluation of a Maine-based SDM pilot. [Sept-April 2012]
- Develop an RFP soliciting practices (primary care and specialists) and purchasers to come together in partnership to participate in a SDM pilot. [January 2012]
- Develop criteria and a process for choosing among applicants (Jan. 2012)
- Select up to five partnerships and begin 18-month pilot implementation. [April 2012-Sept 2013]
- Design and conduct evaluation of SDM pilot and report findings. [Sept 2011-Dec 2013]