

How can we make primary care in Connecticut better? We want to hear from you!

We want Connecticut residents to tell us what's working well in primary care and what could be improved. We want to better understand how changes being considered could improve health, care quality, patient experience, provider satisfaction and affordability. We also want to identify consumer concerns and work together to develop ways to address them.

Here are some ways you can be a part of the conversation:

1. Come to a community meeting about primary care in Connecticut. We are hosting these around the state and hope you can attend one near you. For more information, click [here](#).
2. Make a public comment during one of our upcoming workgroup meetings. For more information, click [here](#).
3. Send us a note. Email your experiences, suggestions and concerns to sim@ct.gov.

The PCM advisory process will continue to be guided by thoughts, insights and concerns shared by consumers during listening sessions held from 2015 to 2017. The feedback shared during these sessions has been important in helping SIM focus its primary care effort on the needs of consumers. A summary of consumer input shared during these listening sessions can be found [here](#).

Here's a few ideas we've heard so far:

- Increase access to quality, coordinated health care services
- Offer easy, private ways for medical professionals and patients to connect to each other and community partners.
 - Call, text and email options
 - Group visits with other patients with similar health needs
 - Home visits for those who have trouble getting to appointments
- Invest in technology and training so patients have the best chance of getting the right care, at the right time, in the right place.
- Help teams of medical professionals such as pharmacists, care coordinators, community health workers and interpreters, work together to help patients receive the support they need.

To help our state's patients live healthier lives and save money in the long run, we need to invest more in primary care. Right now, primary care providers in Connecticut get a small portion of all the money spent on healthcare, about 5%. We think that's too little to get the best results.

We also need to pay doctors and other medical professionals for caring for patients in the way that is best for the patient – not just when patients come into the office. With this in mind, we're exploring new strategies for the ways that insurers pay providers in order to create incentives for the best, most comprehensive care.

Strong primary care helps patients stay healthy, catch problems early and manage conditions like diabetes, asthma and high blood pressure. Join the conversation and help us design the best primary care system for Connecticut.