

Healthcare Cost Growth Benchmark Steering Committee Meeting September 28, 2022

"We collaborate, out of a shared concern and responsibility for all Connecticut residents, to develop consensus models that advance equity and consumer affordability of healthcare in our state."



Welcome

Welcome, New Members!

- Ayesha Clarke, Health Equity Solutions
- Jonathan Gonzalez-Cruz, patient representative
- Angela Harris, Phillips Health Ministry
- Susan Millerick, patient representative
- Lori Pasqualini, Ability Beyond
- Marie Smith, UConn School of Pharmacy
- Kristen Whitney-Daniels, patient representative

Roll Call

Meeting Agenda

<u>Time</u>	<u>Topic</u>
12:00 p.m.	I. Welcome and Roll Call
12:05 p.m.	II. Public Comment
12:10 p.m.	III. Approval of August Meeting Minutes – Vote
12:15 p.m.	IV. Review of Past and Upcoming Activities
12:20 p.m.	V. Cost Growth Mitigation Strategy Work Groups
12:30 p.m.	VI. Pharmacy Cost Growth Mitigation Strategies
1:10 p.m.	VII. Discussion to Guide Consideration of Potential Inflation and/or Workforce Adjustments to Benchmark Assessment
1:25 p.m.	VIII. Wrap-Up and Next Steps
1:30 p.m.	IX. Adjournment

Public Comment

Approval of August 22nd Meeting Minutes - Vote

Review of Past and Upcoming Activities

Review of Steering Committee Activities to Date

Over the past year, the Steering Committee has reviewed a great deal of data on health care spending growth in the state, all in order to inform action on strategies to mitigate the rate of future spending growth. A few highlights follow below:

- In October 2021, the Steering Committee reviewed **commercial cost driver analyses** using APCD data from 2015-19. Mathematica did not have Medicaid data at the time of this analysis.
- In January 2022, the Steering Committee reviewed results of the **pre-benchmark analysis** at the **state and market levels** using payer-reported 2018 and 2019 data.
- In March 2022, commercial trend data for 2015-19 was updated to add **retail pharmacy spending**. Data was also shared on the impact of urgent care utilization and age/sex on **ED utilization disparities**.
- In May 2022, the Steering Committee reviewed **commercial pharmacy cost driver analyses** using APCD data from 2017-19.

Tentative Upcoming Steering Committee Agendas

- October 2022 meeting:
 - Inflation analysis presentation and discussion
 - Process overview for communicating 2021 benchmark performance
 - OSC primary care strategy presentation
- November 2022 meeting:
 - Presentation by another cost growth benchmark state(s)
 - Review of Quality Council 2022 recommendations adopted by OHS
- December 2022 meeting:
 - Medicaid cost driver analysis
 - Cost growth mitigation strategies to advance in 2023
 - Assessment of 2022 activities and goals for 2023

Cost Growth Mitigation Strategy Work Groups

Cost Growth Mitigation Strategy Work Groups

- During the August meeting the Steering Committee supported Claudio's proposal to recommend two cost growth mitigation strategies by year-end to pursue in 2023.
- In order to allow the Steering Committee to allocate time to other priority topics (e.g., impact of inflation on the cost growth benchmark, hearing from other states, reviewing Medicaid spending data), OHS proposes the creation of two separate work groups focused on a) pharmacy spending, and b) hospital readmissions and avoidable ED visits.
 - The work groups would each meet biweekly for four to five meetings.
- *Do Steering Committee members agree with this proposed approach?*
 - Please email Krista Moore at krista.moore@ct.gov by 10/7 if you or a designated colleague would like to participate on either work group (or both).

Pharmacy Cost Growth Mitigation Strategies

Pharmacy Cost Growth Mitigation Strategies

- Hold for content from NASHP

Discussion to Guide Consideration of Potential Inflation and/or Workforce Adjustments to Benchmark Assessment

Inflation and Benchmark Assessment

- In October, OHS plans to present to the Steering Committee for review its annual inflation analysis.
- In preparation for this discussion, OHS would like the Steering Committee to weigh in on the following question:

What a) values and b) objectives should guide OHS' consideration of any potential adjustments to benchmark assessment to account for inflation and workforce pressures?

Wrap-Up and Next Steps

Wrap-Up and Next Steps

- The next meeting will be held on **Monday, October 24th** from 3–5:00 p.m.