

Introduction

Thank you to both Senator Gerratana and Representative Ritter, distinguished members of the Public Health Committee, for the opportunity to present this testimony for consideration on House Bill No. 5038, an Act implementing the Governor's budget recommendation concerning an all-payer claims database (APCD) program.

I applaud the State of Connecticut for its efforts to develop an APCD to support its health reform, population health, Medicaid program, cost containment, and other efforts requiring robust data systems. Should it move forward with its APCD efforts, Connecticut will be joining many other New England states, and will become part of a larger, national movement to provide states with robust data systems to support policy makers, consumers, payers, providers, researchers, and others.

APCD Council Background

The All-Payer Database Council (www.apcdouncil.org) is a partnership between the New Hampshire Institute for Health Policy and Practice at the University of New Hampshire (UNH) and the National Association of Health Data Organizations (NAHDO). The APCD Council is a learning network of states, insurers, vendors, and other stakeholders who are advancing the knowledge and development of All-Payer Claims Databases (APCDs).

Our work focuses on:

1. Stakeholder forums;
2. The development of standards for data collection in partnership with national Data Standard Management Organizations (DSMOs);
3. Technical assistance for states in the early stages of APCD development; and
4. Advocacy for states with Federal agencies such as the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid.

Our work has been supported to date by The Commonwealth Fund, Academy Health's State Coverage Initiative, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the National Governor's Association, and with direct funding from UNH and NAHDO.

State Progress

To date, there are more than a dozen, active state-mandated efforts underway (See Figure 1 or <http://apcdouncil.org/state/map> for details of each state's activities). In New England, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont have had APCDs for several years, and both New York and Rhode Island are currently in implementation. Outside of New England, Kansas, Maryland, Minnesota, Tennessee, and Utah have APCDs. Other states currently implementing APCDs include Colorado, Oregon, and West Virginia. The Commonwealth of Virginia has introduced legislation in their current session. Other states working actively to create legislation in their current legislative sessions include Delaware and Hawaii.

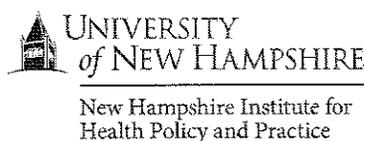
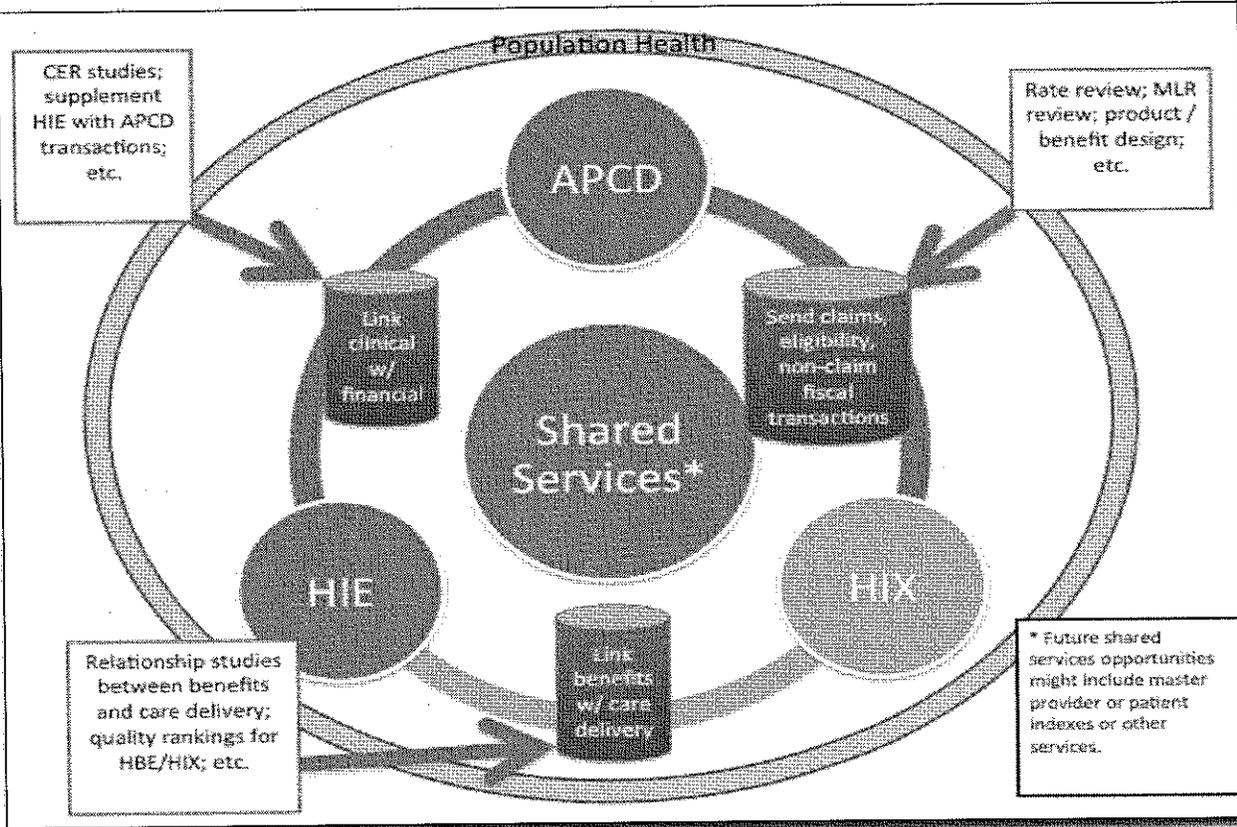


Figure 2: Integrated Health Technology Platform



There are clear opportunities for integration and a carefully implemented strategy using funding from multiple sources that will allow for the types of integration depicted in Figure 2.

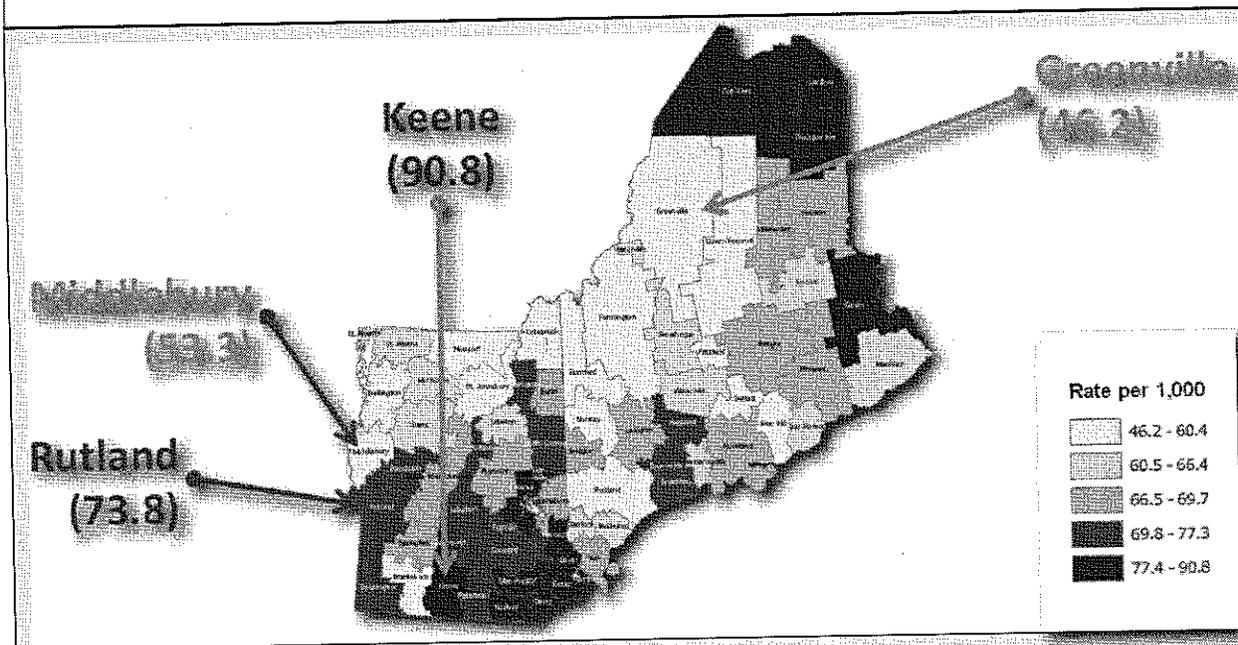
Concluding Remarks

The Office of Health Reform & Innovation contacted the APCD Council last fall, early in their development efforts, to leverage the work that has been done by other states in implementing APCDs as well as the reporting standardization work led by the APCD Council. The APCD Council understands that Connecticut has also successfully established direct relationships with APCD leaders in other states, in order to be able to benefit from their experience and best practices.

The APCD Council commends the thoughtful approach Connecticut is taking, and believes it will help to implement an APCD in an expedited timeframe. Conformance to national data collection standards will reduce payer administrative burden. Also, using these common standards will facilitate the sharing of data and use of data across state lines (Figure 3). In the

coming years, the APCD Council looks forward to Connecticut joining states in the northeast and beyond in inter-state, regional, and national integrations to maximize the potential of APCDs to address critical health care issues.

Figure 3: Tri-State Variation in Health Services, Advanced Imaging-MRIs. Source: State of Vermont



H.B. No. 5038 has been reviewed and we believe it appropriately addresses the key issues that need to be addressed in APCD enabling legislation, while retaining the flexibility needed to formulate detailed policies and procedures through a rule making process that includes a broad range of stakeholders.

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