



New England Asthma Innovations Collaborative (NEAIC)
Health Resources in Action/Asthma Regional Council of New England

ABSTRACT

In July 2012, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) granted Health Resources in Action (HRiA)/Asthma Regional Council of New England (ARC) a Health Care Innovation Challenge award to support the "New England Asthma Innovation Collaborative" (NEAIC). NEAIC is a multi-state, multi-sector partnership that includes health care providers, payers, and policy makers aimed at creating an innovative *Asthma Marketplace in New England* that will increase the *supply and demand* for high-quality, cost-effective health care services delivered to Medicaid children with severe asthma. With \$4,201,200 in CMMI funding over three years, our goal is to improve the delivery of asthma care, enhance the quality of life and success of children with asthma, and save costs to the New England health care system. Our financial modeling projects that this program will produce a savings, per state per year, of \$1.54 to \$5.22 in healthcare costs for every dollar spent on the program (please note the highest rate is for the delivery of clinic-based asthma education). The funds will be used to create a sustainable infrastructure that robustly delivers evidence-based cost-effective asthma care to New England children with severe disease, and creates viable Medicaid reimbursement mechanisms to support these programs over the long-term. The targeted population is high-cost Medicaid and CHIP pediatric patients (2 – 17 years), with a focus on those with uncontrolled symptoms that have a history of using expensive urgent care. The three-year program, focused on prevention, will include the following components to be measured:

1. **Workforce development:** In an effort to promote a high-quality, well-trained workforce, NEAIC will:
 - a) sponsor an *Asthma Training Institute* to increase the number of well qualified cost-effective providers, including certified asthma educators and community health works (CHWs) with a specialty in asthma; and b) explore and make recommendations for an innovative CHW asthma credentialing program that payers and provider practices across NE have requested and can benefit from. All of this will contribute to higher quality and culturally competent care, and we believe will help to support innovative Medicaid reimbursement as a result of demonstrated cost-effective outcomes.
2. **Rapid service delivery expansion** for 1,462 high-risk children with asthma in CT, RI, MA, and VT including: a) Home visiting services to provide asthma self-management education, environmental assessments, and environmental supplies to control triggers; and b) Patient-centered asthma education in the clinic (CT).
3. **Committed Medicaid payers** in several New England states will work to sustain these cost-effective programs by piloting reimbursement methodologies with the service providers, should the service model results demonstrate the CMMI three-part aims.
4. **A Payer and Provider Learners Community** across all six New England states to rapidly disseminate demonstrated improvements to the quality and cost of asthma care, share viable reimbursement systems developed, successfully incorporate CHWs into the asthma care team, and disseminate best practices. The Learners Community builds on ARC's existing networks and partnerships across the region, and is meant to increase awareness about these successful models with the goal of broader adoption across New England.

NEAIC's components build in continuous quality improvement measures through rigorous data collection/analysis, strong partnerships, and commitments from interested payers and policy makers. ***The establishment and promotion of CHWs as strong health care delivery partners addressing environmental conditions as part and parcel of the disease management program -- with reimbursement by payers -- make this an innovative model for broad dissemination and potential for replication across the nation.***

NEAIC Partners include five Medicaid payer organizations, including four nonprofit managed care organizations; state and federal policymakers, including all six CDC-funded asthma programs in New England departments of health; four workforce development partners; and eight provider partners. In addition to HRiA, partners they include:

Children’s Hospital
Boston, MA

American Lung Association of New England
Waltham, MA

Baystate Children’s Hospital
Springfield, MA

Community Health Education Center
Boston, MA

Boston Medical Center
Boston, MA

Massachusetts Association of Community Health
Workers
Worcester, MA

Rhode Island Hospital /
Hasbro Children’s Hospital
Providence, RI

Neighborhood Health Plan – RI
Providence, RI

St. Joseph’s Health Clinic
Providence, RI

Neighborhood Health Plan – MA
Boston, MA

Rutland Regional Medical Center
Rutland, VT

BMC Healthnet
Boston, MA

CT Children’s Medical Group
Hamden, CT

Health New England
Springfield, MA

Middlesex Hospital
Middletown, CT

CT Department of Social Services
Hartford, CT

Area Health Education Center of Central MA
Worcester, MA

Department of Vermont Health Access
Vermont