



**DETERMINING PERFORMANCE  
BENCHMARKS FOR A MEDICAID VALUE-  
BASED PAYMENT PROGRAM**

**Medicaid Innovation Accelerator Program Webinar**

**January 31, 2018, 2:00PM-3:30 PM ET**

# Agenda

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## 1. Welcome and introductions



## 2. Overview of benchmarking purposes and approaches

2:10-2:25



## 3. Oregon's Coordinated Care Organizations P4P Program

2:25-2:45



## 4. Discussion

2:45-2:55



## 5. Vermont's Shared Savings Program

2:55-3:15



## 6. Discussion

3:15-3:25



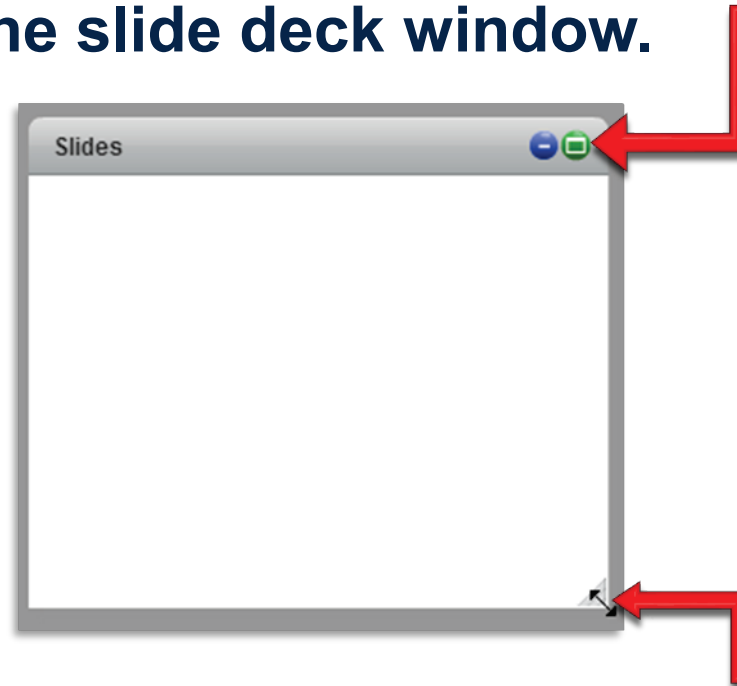
## 7. Wrap-up

3:25-3:30

# Expand Event Windows

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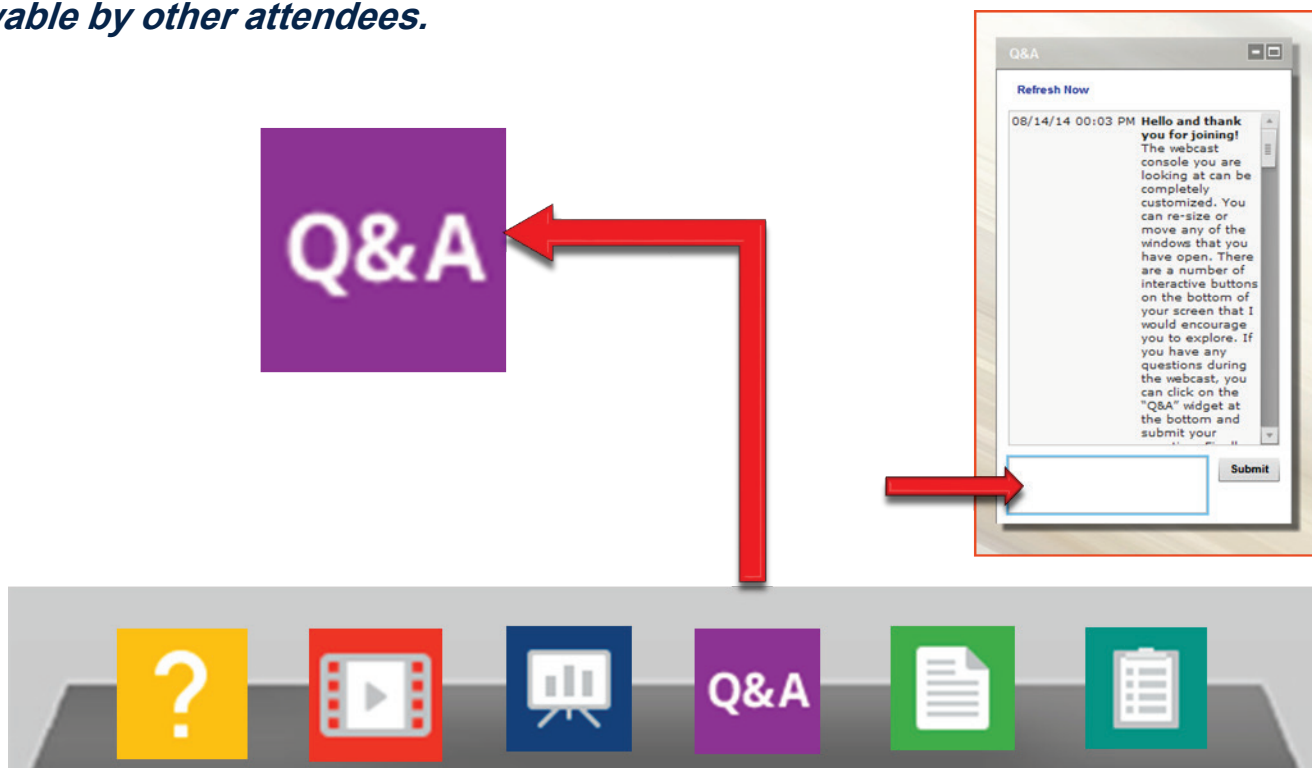
- To expand event windows, click the button on the top right corner of the slide deck window.



- To adjust the slide size, drag the bottom right corner of the window.

# “Q&A”

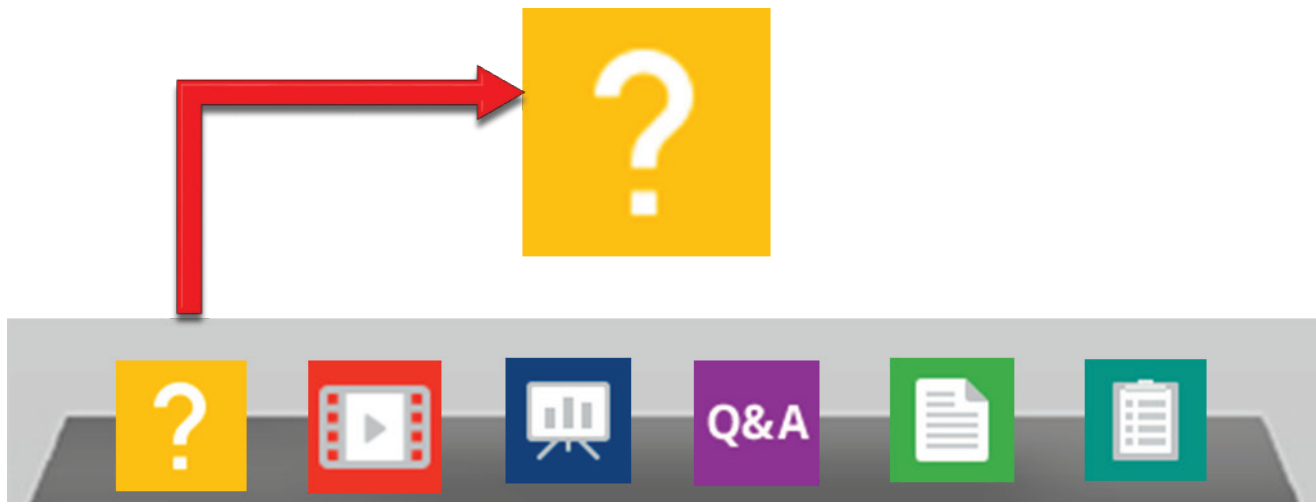
- To pose a question to the presenters or to the group, click on the “Q&A” widget at the bottom and submit your question.
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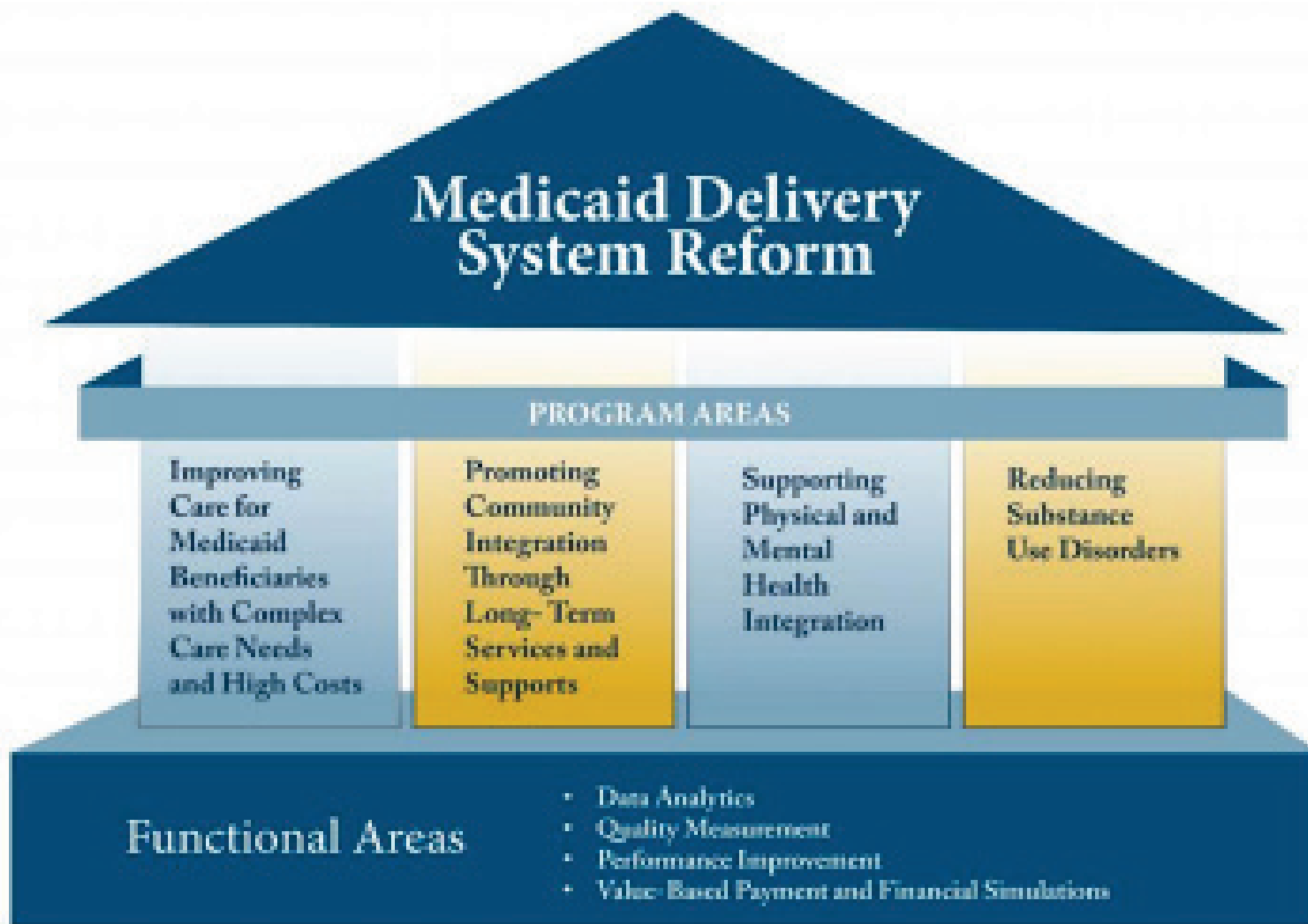
# Today's Speakers

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- **So O'Neil (Mathematica)**
- **Ella Douglas-Durham (Mathematica)**
- **Jon Collins (Oregon Health Authority)**
- **Pat Jones (Green Mountain Care Board)**
- **Alicia Cooper (Department of Vermont Health Access)**

# IAP Program Areas and Functional Areas

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# Setting the Context

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- **Volume → value in healthcare**
- **Measures to assess quality in health care**
- **Existing benchmark of where quality provides value**

## What to do when...

- a performance measure lacks a benchmark?
- an existing benchmark is not appropriate for the intended use or setting?





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**2. Overview of benchmarking purposes and approaches**



3. Oregon's Coordinated Care Organizations P4P Program



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5. Vermont's Shared Savings Program



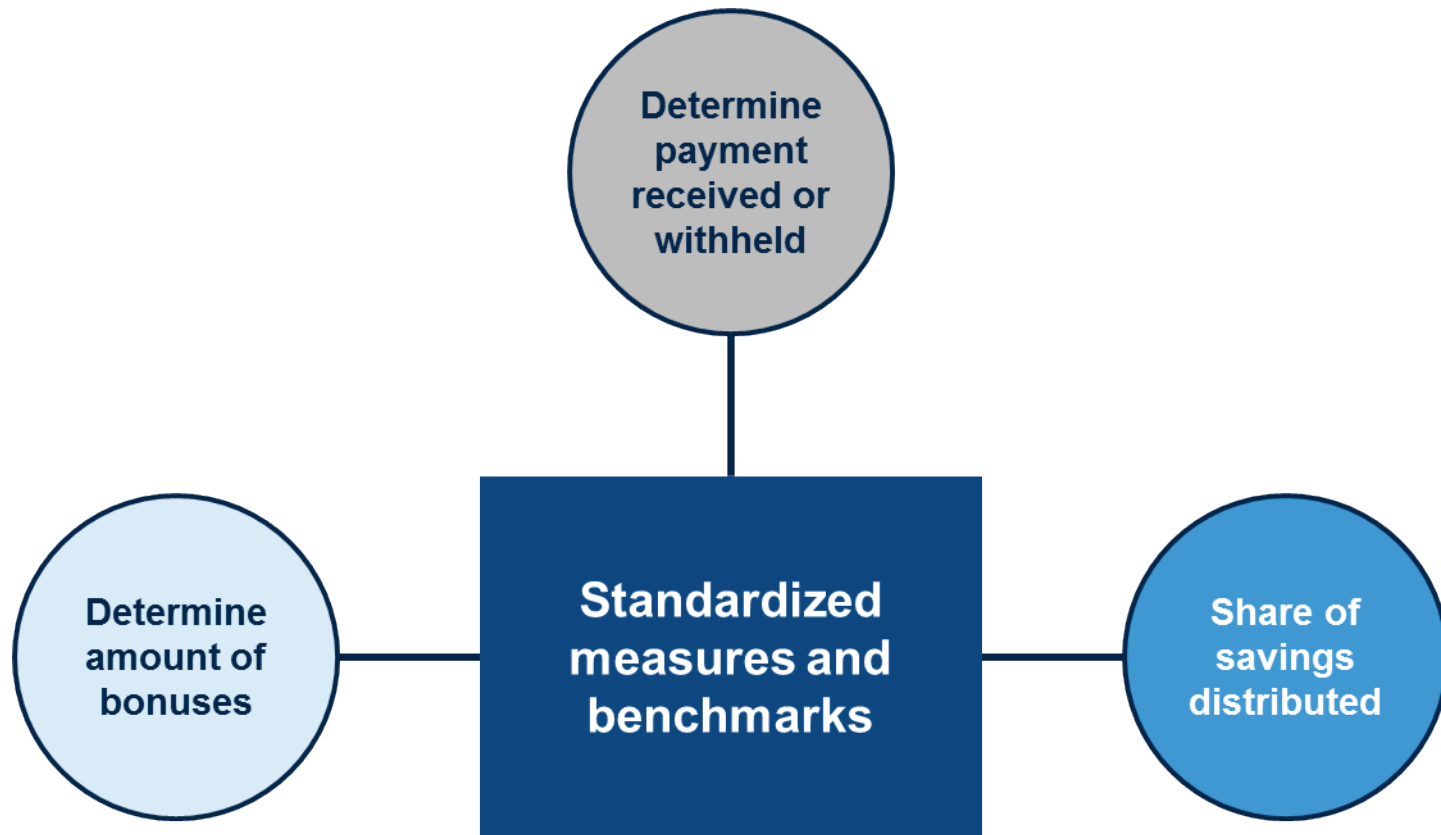
6. Discussion



7. Wrap-up

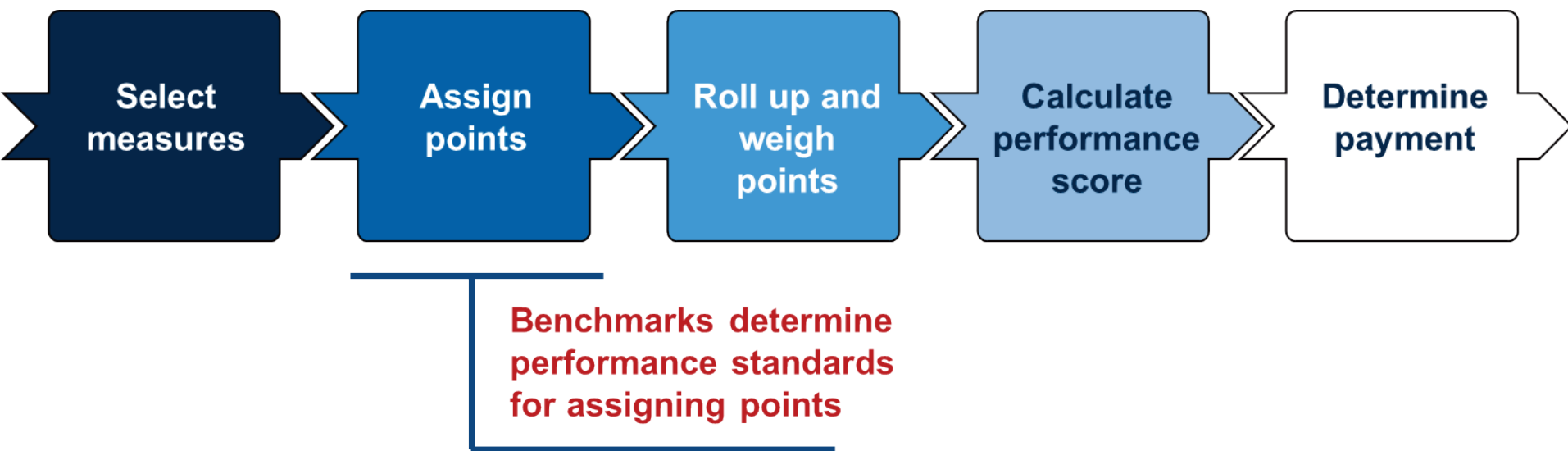
# Uses of benchmarks in value-based payment models

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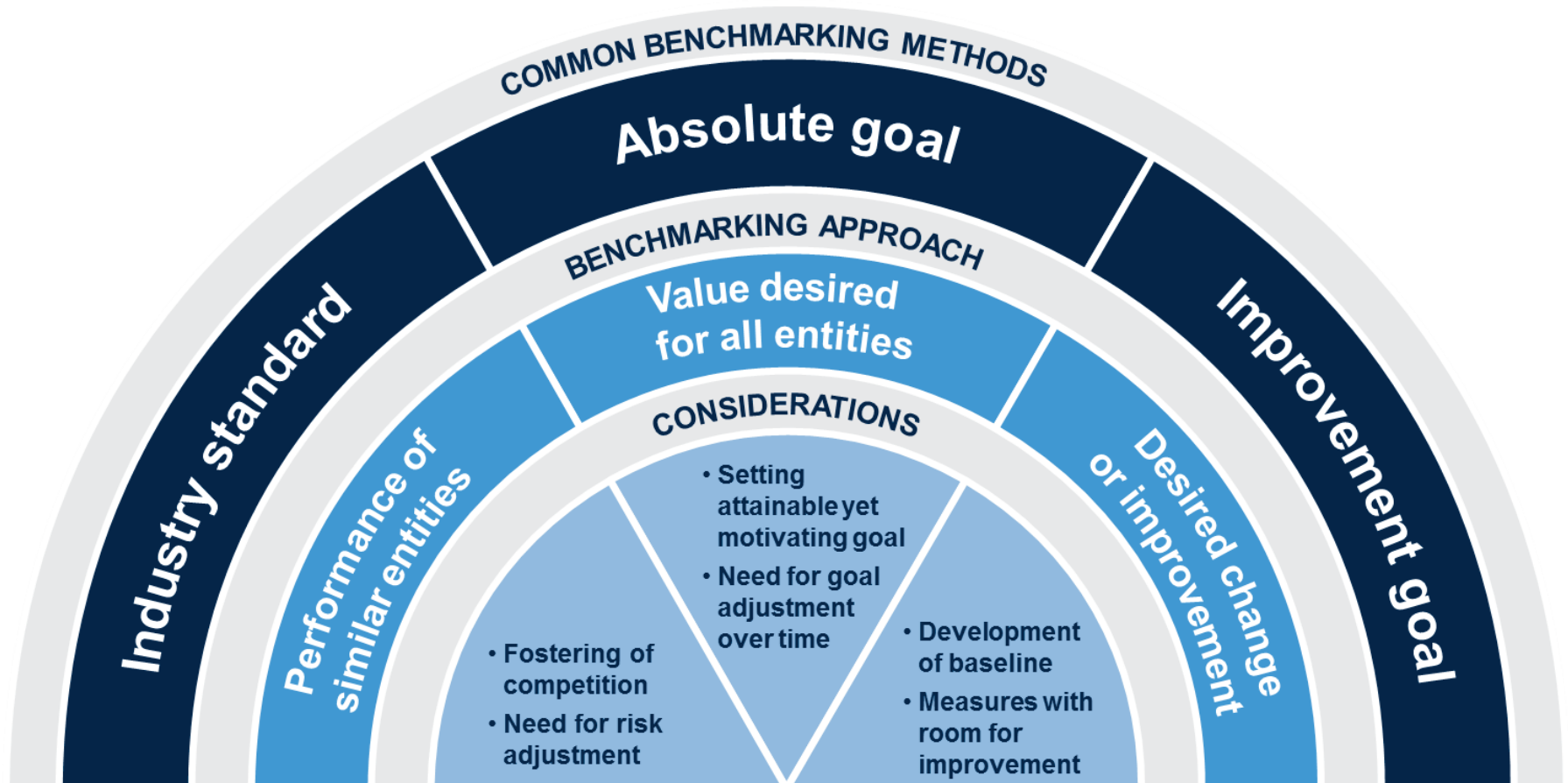


# Illustrative benchmarking approach within the value-based payment process

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# Common benchmarking methods



# Considerations when choosing a method

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**Goals for achievement**

**Improving or maintaining performance?**



**Category of performance measure**

**Process/output or outcome measure?**



**Historical performance**

**Historical high or low performance?**

# Setting benchmarks

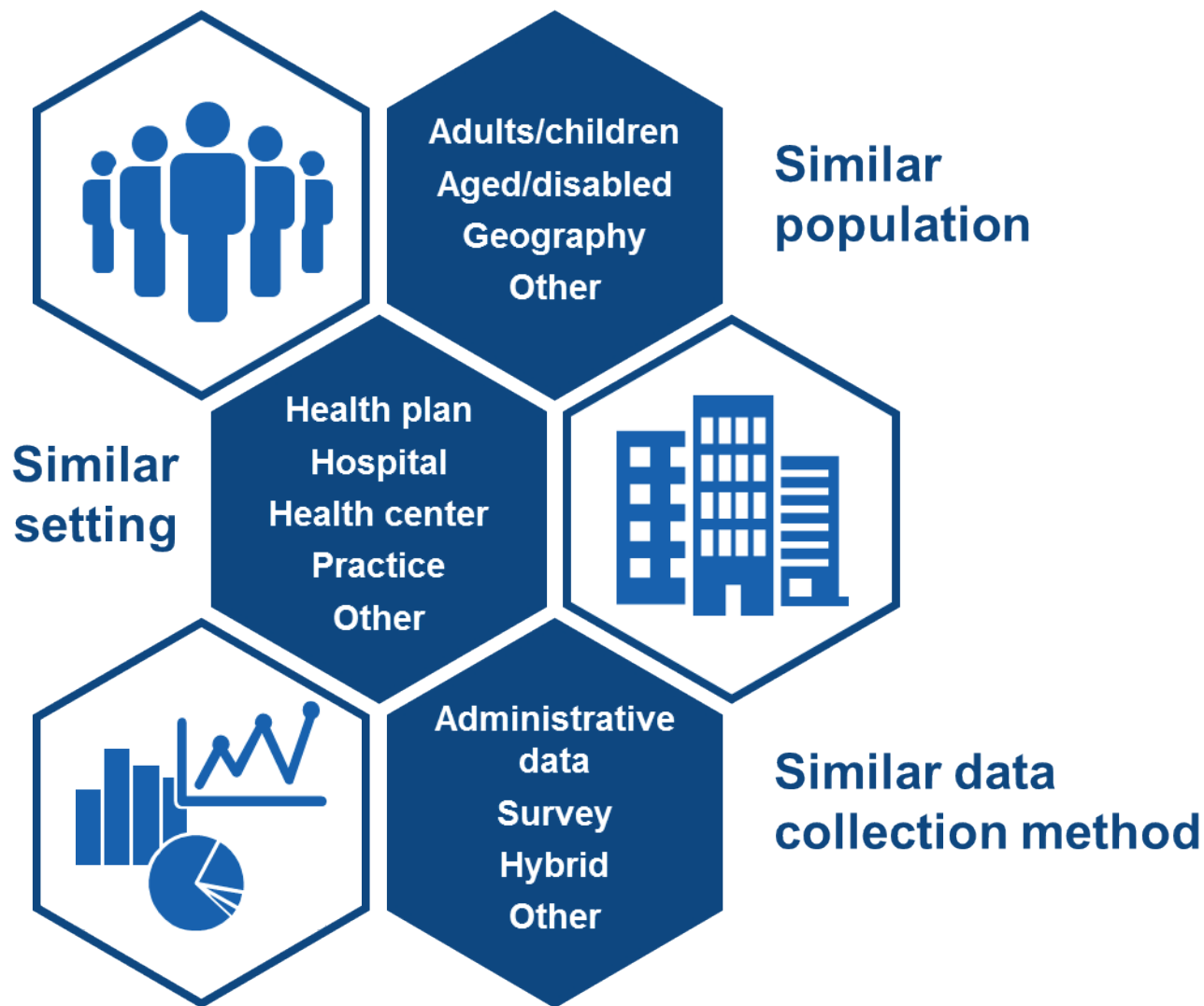
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- **Value(s) against which to assess performance**
- **External benchmarks**
  - Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS)<sup>®</sup>
  - National surveys and surveillance systems
  - Medicaid
  - Other (e.g., National Quality Forum, Healthy People 2020)
- **Internal data sources for benchmarks**
  - Electronic health records
  - Encounter and claims administrative data
  - Payments or invoices
  - Annual reports
  - Intake surveys
  - Other data-generating activities



**Most benchmarking approaches can use either internal or external data sources**

# Setting external benchmarks



# Setting internal benchmarks

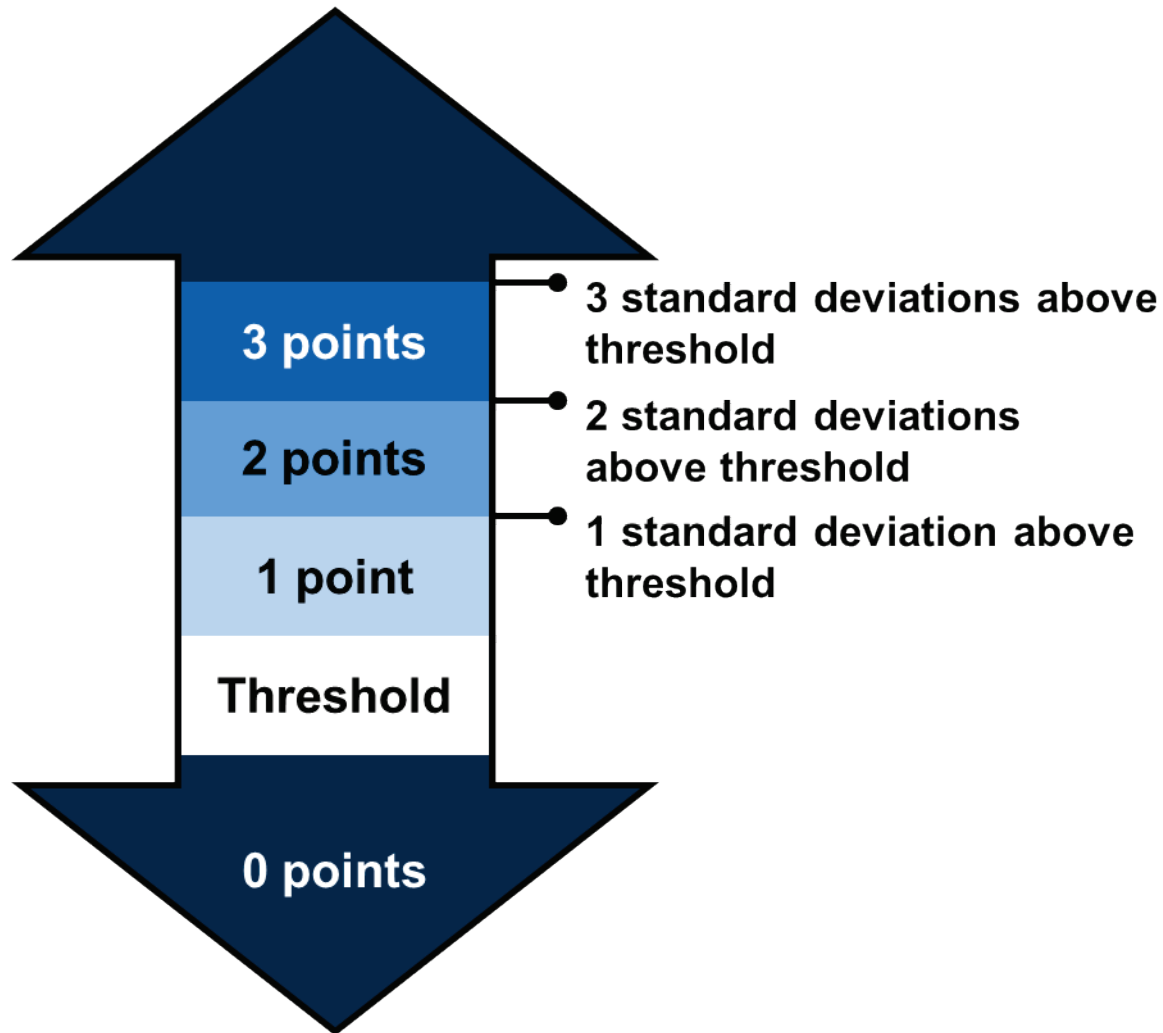
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# Setting benchmarks: Illustrative tiered point assignment from a benchmark

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# Summary of key considerations for setting benchmarks

Key considerations	Benchmarking implications	Tiered point assignment implications
<b>Measure application</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Population</li> <li>Service delivery setting</li> </ul>	Achievable value within population/setting	Reasonable distribution and variation in measure within population/setting
<b>Reporting frequency</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Time period feasible to observe change</li> <li>Degree of change anticipated</li> </ul>	Achievable performance improvement for time period	Reasonable distribution and variation in performance improvement within time period
<b>Data availability</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data source</li> <li>Sample size</li> </ul>	Allowance for quality of measures generated from data source	Reasonable distribution and variation based on sample size and data source

# Benchmarking and YOU

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## 1. How does your agency or organization use benchmarks? (Please select all that apply)

- A. To assess program performance and quality
- B. To determine payments
- C. Our organization does not use benchmarks

## 2. What is your experience developing benchmarks? (Please select all that apply)

- A. I've used HEDIS benchmarks
- B. I've developed internal benchmarks
- C. I've identified external benchmarks (non-HEDIS)
- D. I have not been involved in developing benchmarks



1. Welcome and introductions



2. Overview of benchmarking purposes and approaches



**3. Oregon's Coordinated Care Organizations P4P Program**



**4. Discussion**



5. Vermont's Shared Savings Program



6. Discussion



7. Wrap-up

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# Coordinated Care Organization Metrics 101

Jon C. Collins, PhD  
Director of Health Analytics



OFFICE OF HEALTH ANALYTICS  
Health Policy & Analytics

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# Health System Transformation: Achieving the Triple Aim

**1 Better health.**

**2 Better care.**

**3 Lower costs.**

# Oregon's Medicaid Program Commitments to CMS

- Reduce the annual increase in the cost of care (the cost curve) by 2 percentage points.
- Ensure that quality of care improves.
- Ensure that population health improves.
- Establish a 1 percent withhold for timely and accurate reporting of data.
- Establish a quality pool.

# Measurement Strategy



One accurate  
measurement is worth  
a thousand  
expert opinions  
Grace Hopper







# OHA Accountability in the Waiver to CMS

2012-2017 waiver	2017-2022 waiver
<p data-bbox="123 344 861 391"><b>State Performance Measures</b></p> <ul data-bbox="123 439 894 996" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="123 439 894 554">• Annual assessment of statewide performance on 33 measures.</li><li data-bbox="123 601 894 833">• Ensure quality of and access to care for Medicaid beneficiaries does not degrade during transformation.</li><li data-bbox="123 881 894 996">• Financial penalties to the state if quality goals are not achieved.</li></ul>	<p data-bbox="989 344 1572 391"><b>State Quality Measures</b></p> <ul data-bbox="989 439 1798 1186" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="989 439 1798 611">• Annual assessment of statewide performance on about 33* measures.</li><li data-bbox="989 658 1798 891">• Ensure quality of and access to care for Medicaid beneficiaries does not degrade during transformation.</li><li data-bbox="989 938 1798 1186">• Because no money from CMS with this waiver → no financial penalties to the state if quality goals are not achieved.</li></ul> <p data-bbox="989 1233 1798 1366">*Final details of measurement strategy / list of measures yet to be approved. However, a lot of crossover with previous State Performance Measures.</p>

# Coordinated Care Organization Accountability to OHA

## Coordinated Care Organization (CCO) Incentive Measures

- Annual assessment of CCO performance on selected measures.
- Measures selected by public Metrics & Scoring Committee.
- CCO performance tied to bonus \$
- Compare annual performance against prior year (baseline), to see if CCO met benchmark or demonstrated certain amount of improvement



Measure specifications and guidance documents online at:

<http://www.oregon.gov/oha/analytics/Pages/CCO-Baseline-Data.aspx>

# Quality Pool Structure

- CCOs must meet either the benchmark or an improvement target annually for each of the incentive measures to earn quality pool funds.
- Quality pool = percentage of actual CCO paid amounts during calendar year.
- Pool has increased annually:
  - 2% in 2013
  - 3% in 2014
  - 4% in 2015
  - 4.25% in 2016
  - 4.25% in 2017 (not to exceed 5%)



# Quality Pool Distribution

To earn their **full quality pool payment** in 2016, CCOs had to:

- ✓ Meet the benchmark or improvement target on at least 13 of the 18 measures; and
- ✓ Have at least 60 percent of their members enrolled in a patient-centered primary care home (PCPCH).

Money left over from the quality pool goes to a **challenge pool**. To earn the challenge pool payments, CCOs had to meet the benchmark or improvement target on the four challenge pool measures.

All money in the pool is distributed every year.

# Measure Selection: A Public Process

## Metrics & Scoring Committee

Nine member committee, public process, select measures and set benchmarks



## Metrics Technical Advisory Workgroup

Ad hoc workgroup with CCO representatives, operationalize metric specifications, make recommendations to Committee

<http://www.oregon.gov/oha/analytics/Pages/Metrics-Scoring-Committee.aspx> and  
<http://www.oregon.gov/oha/analytics/Pages/Metrics-Technical-Advisory-Group.aspx>

# CCO Incentive Measures since 2013

CCO Incentive Measures	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Adolescent well-care visits	X	X	X	X	X	X
Alcohol or other substance misuse screening (SBIRT)	X	X	X	X	1	
Ambulatory care: Emergency department (ED) visits	X	X	X	X	X	X
CAHPS composite: Access to care	X	X	X	X	X	X
CAHPS composite: Satisfaction with care	X	X	X	X	X	
Childhood immunization status				X	X	X
Cigarette smoking prevalence				X	X	X
Colorectal cancer screening	X	X	X	X	X	X
Controlling high blood pressure	X	X	X	X	X	X
Dental sealants			X	X	X	X
Depression screening and follow-up plan	X	X	X	X	X	X
Developmental screening (0-36 months)	X	X	X	X	X	X
Disparity measure: ED visits among members with mental illness						
Early elective delivery	X	X				
Diabetes: HbA1c poor control	X	X	X	X	X	X
Effective contraceptive use			X	X	X	X
Electronic health record adoption	X	X	X			
Follow-up after hospitalization for mental illness	X	X	X	X	X	
Follow-up for children prescribed ADHD medication	X	X				
Health assessments within 60 days for children in DHS custody	X	X	X	X	X	X
Patient centered primary care home enrollment	X	X	X	X	X	X
Timeliness of prenatal care	X	X	X	X	X	X

# Measure Selection in the Future: Senate Bill 440 (2015)

- Establishes Health Plan Quality Metrics Committee (HPQMC)
- Requires committee to develop a menu of health outcome and quality measures for CCOs and plans offered by Public Employees' Benefit Board, Oregon Educators Benefit Board, and the Insurance Exchange.
- Any metrics used for these plans must be on the menu developed by the Committee.
- Metrics & Scoring Committee now a subcommittee of the HPQMC.
- Will affect measure selection beginning with 2019 metrics (which are selected during 2018)



# Benchmarks and Targets



# Incentive Benchmarks

Incentive measure benchmarks are selected by the Metrics and Scoring Committee

Benchmarks are meant to be aspirational goals and are intentionally selected quite high, e.g. national Medicaid 75<sup>th</sup> or 90<sup>th</sup> percentiles.

When no national percentile is available, other sources are used, e.g. CCO top performers.

# Improvement Targets

CCOs are not expected to meet the benchmark each year but rather to *make improvement toward* the benchmark.

To demonstrate this, CCOs can earn quality pool payment by

- achieving the benchmark *or*
- achieving their individual improvement target

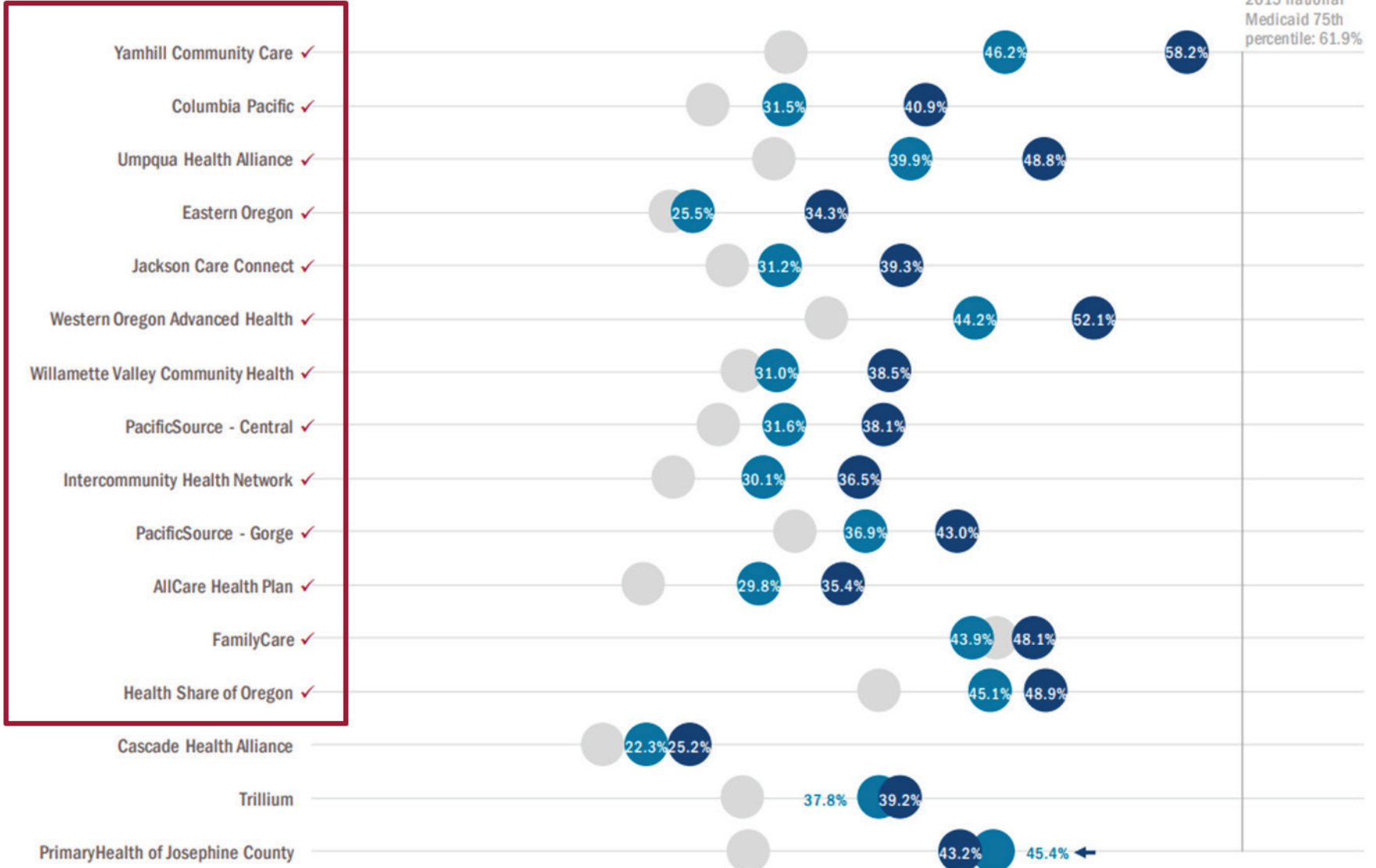
**Improvement targets** require at least a 10 percent reduction in the gap between the CCO's prior year's performance ("baseline") and the benchmark to qualify for incentive payments.



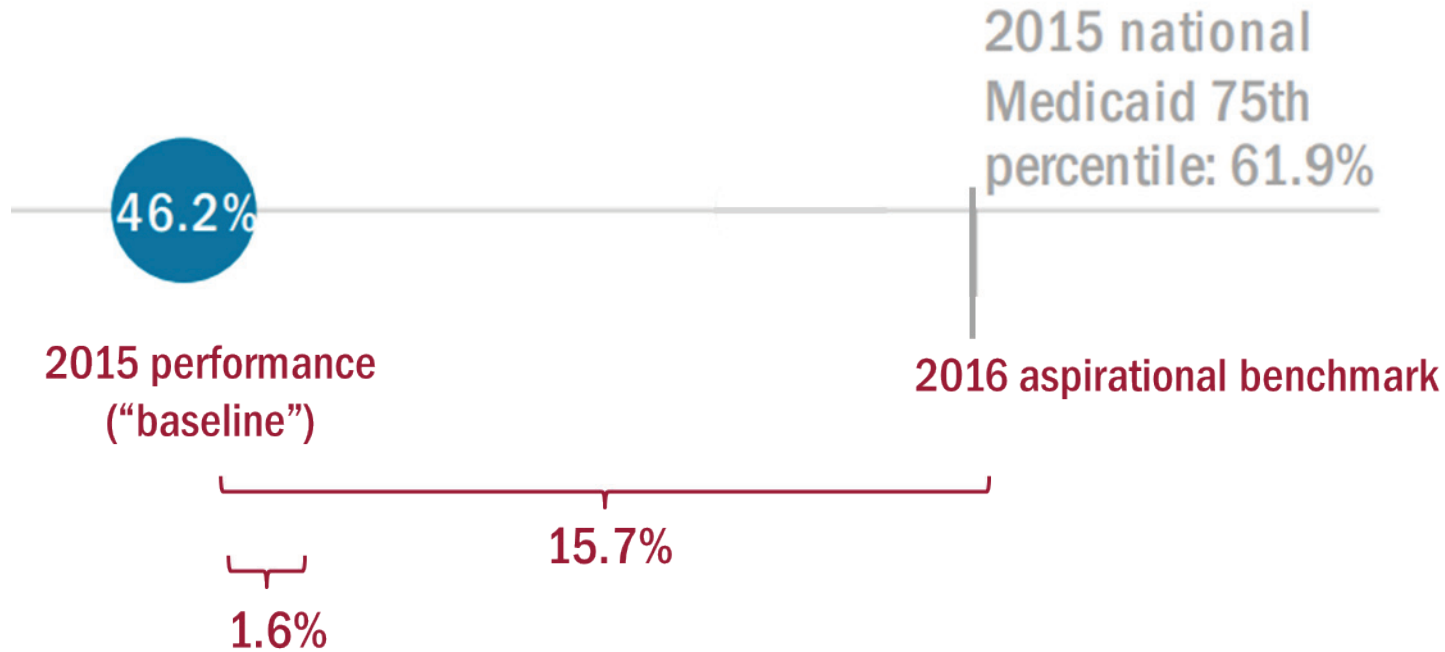
# ADOLESCENT WELL-CARE VISITS

## Adolescent well-care visits in 2015 and 2016, by CCO.

✓ indicates CCO met benchmark or improvement target / Grey dots represent 2014



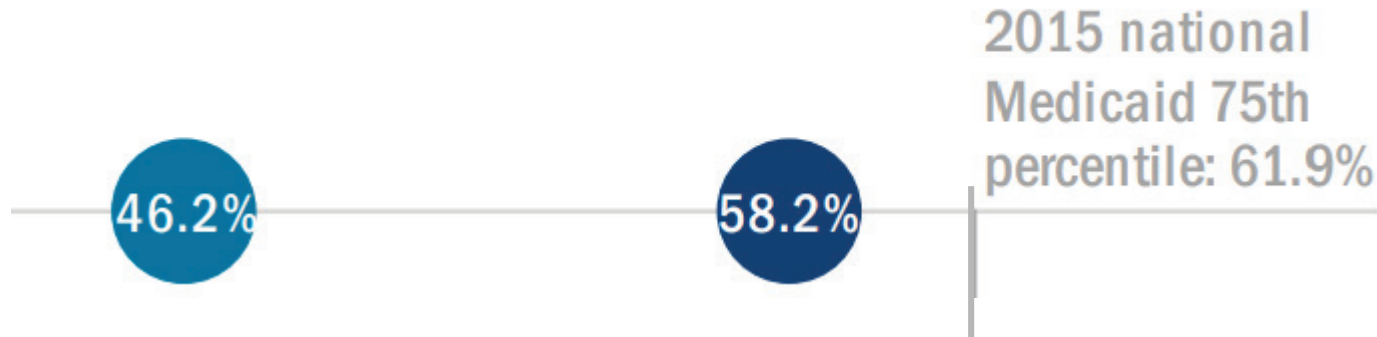
# Improvement target formula



The CCO must achieve 46.2% + [improvement target] in order to achieve the measure.

$$46.2\% + 1.6\% = 47.8\%$$

# Improvement target formula



The CCO improved at least 1.6 percentage points, and thus earned the measure “by improvement target” without actually reaching the aspirational benchmark.

# Improvement target floor

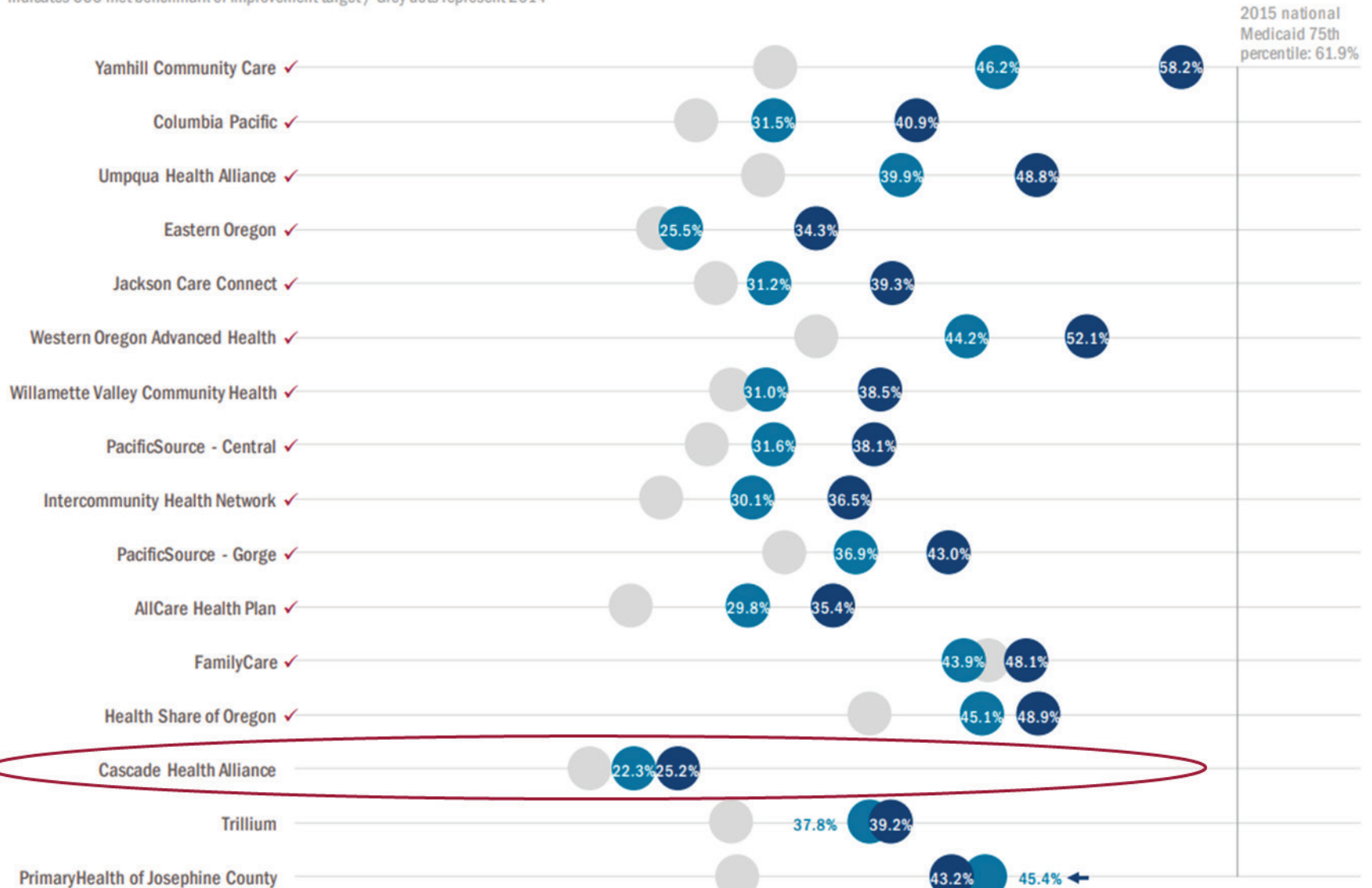
- There is one caveat: The Metrics and Scoring Committee also establishes an **improvement target FLOOR**, meaning that an improvement target cannot be less than X percentage points above baseline.
- Typically, the floor is 2 or 3 percentage points.
- In the previous example, the improvement target was just 1.6 percentage points, which is less than the 3 percentage point floor.
- Thus, the CCO actually needed to achieve  $[46.2\% + 3 = ]$  49.2% in 2016.



# ADOLESCENT WELL-CARE VISITS

## Adolescent well-care visits in 2015 and 2016, by CCO.

✓ indicates CCO met benchmark or improvement target / Grey dots represent 2014



# Improvement target floor

2016 benchmark: 61.9%

Cascade Health Alliance



Cascade Health Alliance's 2016 improvement target per the formula is:

$$\frac{[\text{Benchmark}] - [\text{CCO baseline}]}{10} = \frac{61.9 - 22.3}{10} = 4 \text{ percentage points}$$

However, the FLOOR for this measure is 3 percentage points.

Thus, Cascade had to achieve  $22.3 + 3 = 25.3$  in 2016 to earn the measure

(They achieved 25.2... ouch!)



# Questions?

**Jon C. Collins, PhD**

Director of Health Analytics

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2. Overview of benchmarking purposes and approaches



3. Oregon's Coordinated Care Organizations P4P Program



4. Discussion



**5. Vermont's Shared Savings Program**



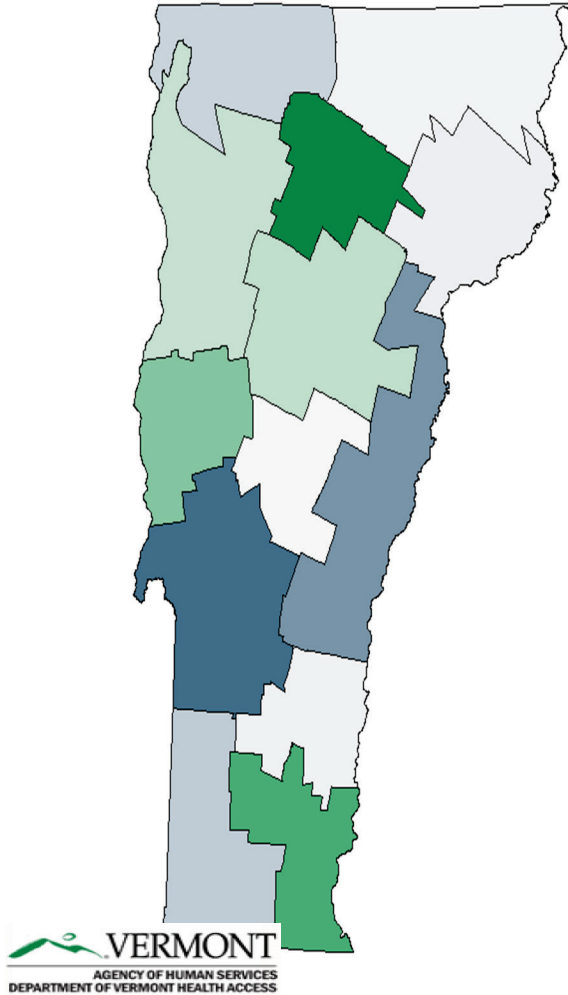
**6. Discussion**



7. Wrap-up

# Vermont's Medicaid Accountable Care Organization (ACO) Shared Savings Program: Background and Performance Benchmarks

Alicia Cooper, Director of Payment Reform  
Department of Vermont Health Access



# Vermont ACO Shared Savings Program Background

# SIM Testing Grant Supported Development of Vermont's ACO Shared Savings Programs

**2013:** VT Awarded \$45 million State Innovation Model (SIM) Testing Grant from CMMI

- Used to Design, Implement, and Evaluate alternative multi-payer payment models in support of the Triple Aim

**2014:** VT Launched Commercial and Medicaid Shared Savings Programs

- Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) administers the Vermont Medicaid Shared Savings Program (VMSSP)
- Green Mountain Care Board (GMCB) and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont (BCBSVT) administer the Commercial Shared Savings Program (XSSP)

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# ACOs and SSPs

- Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) are composed of and led by health care providers who have agreed to work together and be accountable for the cost and quality of care for a defined population
- ACOs can participate in a variety of payment arrangements – including Shared Savings Programs (SSPs)
- SSPs are payment reform initiatives developed by health care payers. SSPs are offered to providers (e.g., ACOs) who agree to participate with the payers to:
  - Promote accountability for a defined population
  - Coordinate care
  - Encourage investment in infrastructure and care processes
  - Share a percentage of savings realized as a result of their efforts
- Participation in ACOs and SSPs is voluntary

# Shared Savings Programs in Vermont

Shared Savings Program standards in Vermont, including performance benchmarks, were developed as a result of collaboration among payers, providers, and stakeholders, facilitated by the State

ACO SSP standards include:

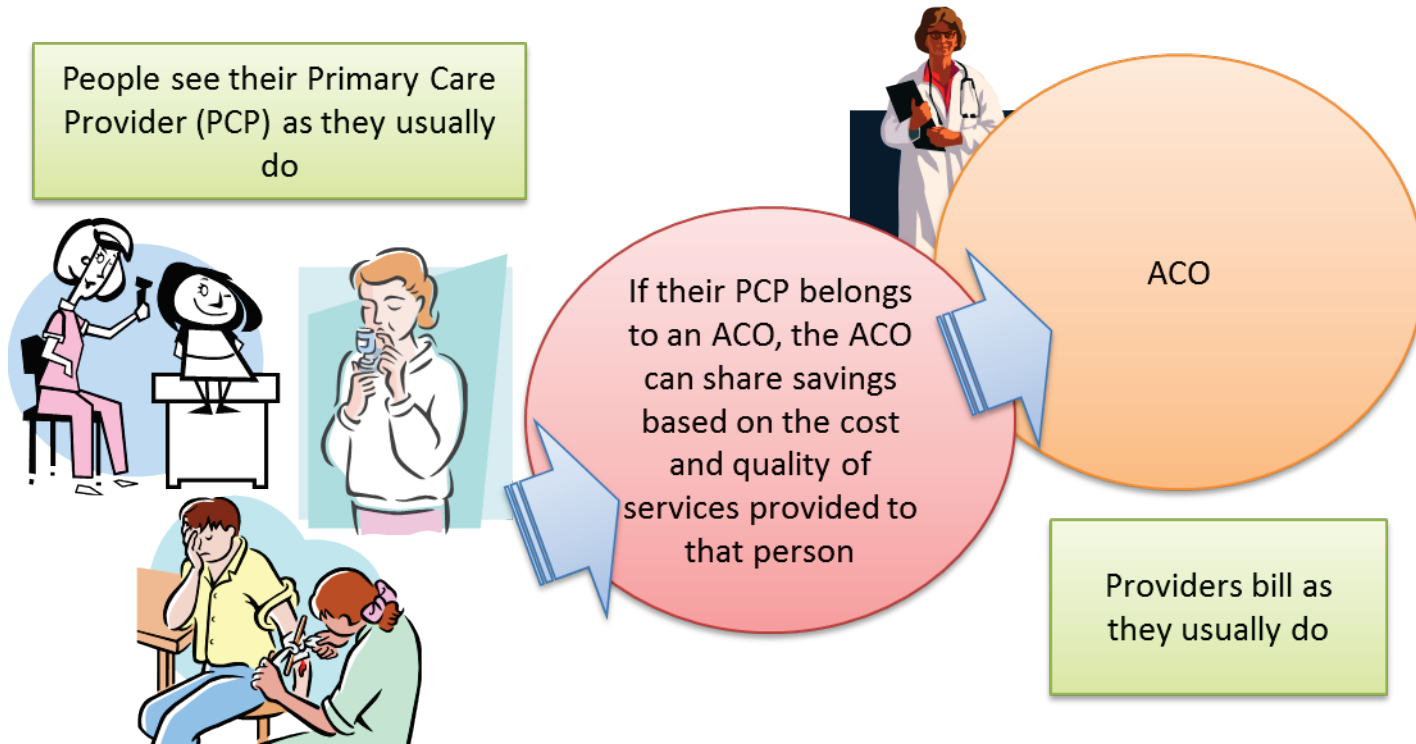
- Attribution of Patients
- Establishment of Expenditure Targets
- Distribution of Savings
- Impact of Performance Measures on Savings Distribution
- Governance

# Vermont's ACO Participation in SSPs

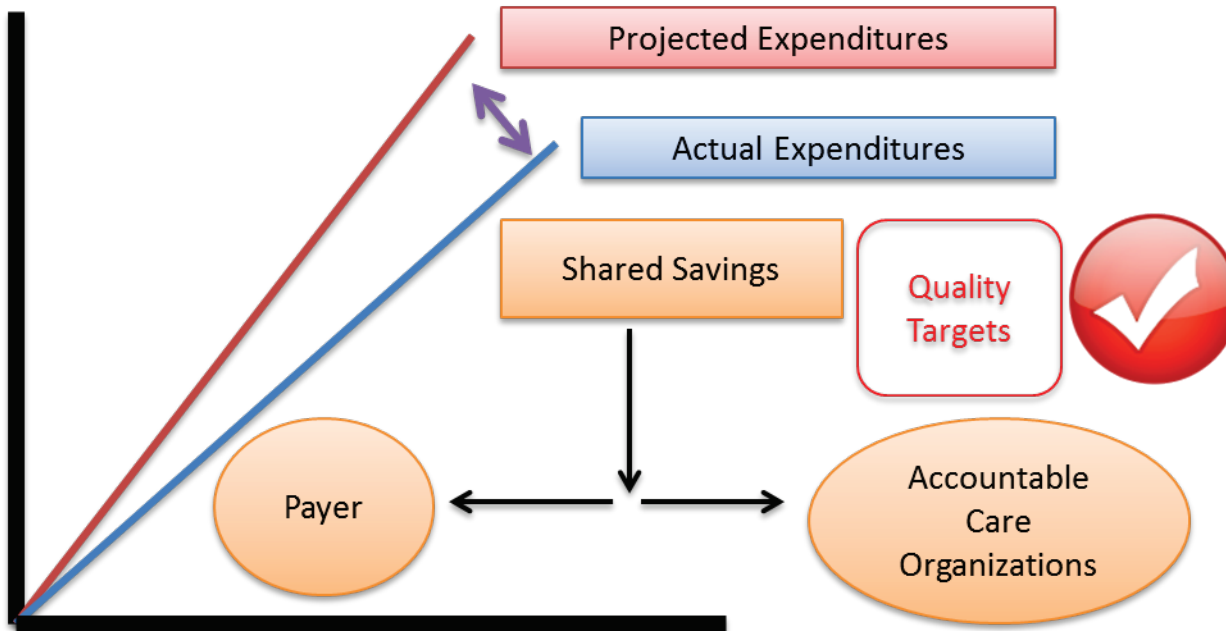
ACO Name	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Community Health Accountable Care (CHAC)</b>	Commercial SSP Medicaid SSP Medicare SSP	Commercial SSP Medicaid SSP Medicare SSP	Commercial SSP Medicaid SSP Medicare SSP	Commercial SSP  Medicare SSP
<b>OneCare Vermont (OneCare)</b>	Commercial SSP Medicaid SSP Medicare SSP	Commercial SSP Medicaid SSP Medicare SSP	Commercial SSP Medicaid SSP Medicare SSP	Commercial SSP DVHA NextGen Medicare SSP
<b>Vermont Collaborative Physicians/Healthfirst (VCP)</b>	Commercial SSP  Medicare SSP	Commercial SSP	Commercial SSP	



# Beneficiary Attribution to an ACO SSP



# Expenditure Targets in an ACO SSP



# Multi-Stakeholder Process to Establish Quality Measures and Benchmarks

# Convening Stakeholders: Quality Measures Work Group Members

Nearly 30 members from a wide variety of organizations, plus many additional participants, including representatives from:

Vermont's three ACOs

State agencies and programs

Provider organizations

Commercial insurers

Consumer organizations

Other organizations (e.g., Vermont Information Technology Leaders, Vermont Program for Quality in Health Care)

# Work Group Objectives

To identify standardized measures that could be used to:

- Evaluate the performance of Vermont's ACOs relative to state objectives
- Qualify and modify shared savings payments
- Guide improvements in health care delivery

# Measure Selection Process for Year 1 (2014)

Over the course of nine months (January 2013-October 2013), the ACO Measures Work Group met about every two weeks.

Two sub-groups also held several meetings:

- Patient Experience of Care Survey Sub-group

- End-of-Life Care Measures Sub-group

Created “crosswalk” of more than 200 measures from numerous national, state (including Vermont), health plan and other measure sets

# Measure Selection Process for Year 1 (cont'd)

Using an intensive process, Work Group participants:

- Identified their priority measures for consideration

- Developed consensus criteria for measure evaluation

- Eliminated measures through application of criteria and extensive discussion

- Expressed support for and concerns about measures

- Focused on measures of various types, in various domains, with national specifications, with benchmarks, and with opportunities for improvement

- Compromised!

- Identified 31 measures for Commercial SSP and 32 measures for Medicaid SSP; further identified as Payment or Reporting

- Expressed widespread support, but not unanimity

# Impact of Payment Measure Quality Targets

## “Gate and Ladder” Approach:

- For most measures, compare to national benchmark and assign 1, 2 or 3 points based on whether ACO is at the national 25<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup> or 75<sup>th</sup> percentile for the measure.
- For measures without national benchmarks, compare each measure to VT benchmark or baseline performance, and assign 0, 2 or 3 points based on whether ACO declines, stays the same, or improves relative to benchmark/baseline.
- The Medicaid SSP also allows additional points when performance improves over time.
- If ACO does not achieve required percentage of maximum available points across all payment measures, it is not eligible for any shared savings (this is the “Quality Gate”).



# Measure Review Process for Year 2 (2015)

Continued to adhere to transparent process and obtain ongoing input from Work Group participants and others. Process more streamlined than in Year 1.

## ***March-June 2014***

- Interested parties presented ~20 measure changes for consideration for Year 2
- Work Group reviewed and finalized criteria to evaluate proposed changes
- Work Group discussed proposed measure changes

## ***June-July 2014***

- Using Robert Wood Johnson Buying Value Measure Selection Tool, Work Group Co-Chairs and Staff scored each measure change against approved criteria and developed proposals for Year 2 measure changes
- Work Group reviewed and discussed proposals; voted to approve 30 measures, including some proposed changes

# 2016 VMSSP “Quality Ladder”

**Quality Gate** →

Percentage of available points	Percentage of earned savings
55%	75%
60%	80%
65%	85%
70%	90%
75%	95%
80%	100%

# 2016 VMSSP Payment Measure Results

Measure	CHAC Rate / Percentile / Points*	OCV Rate / Percentile / Points*
All-Cause Readmission	15.82/**/2 Points	11.42/**/2 Points
Adolescent Well-Care Visits	48.82/Above 50 <sup>th</sup> /3 Points	51.27/Above 50 <sup>th</sup> /3 Points
Mental Illness, Follow-Up After Hospitalization	39.69/Above 25 <sup>th</sup> /1 Point	52.30/Above 50 <sup>th</sup> /2 Points
Alcohol and Other Drug Dependence Treatment	29.51/Above 50 <sup>th</sup> /2 Points	27.56/Above 50 <sup>th</sup> /2 Points
Avoidance of Antibiotics in Adults with Acute Bronchitis	24.63/Above 50 <sup>th</sup> /2 Points	32.46/Above 75 <sup>th</sup> /3 Points
Chlamydia Screening	44.47/Below 25 <sup>th</sup> /0 Points	50.51/Below 25 <sup>th</sup> /0 Points
Developmental Screening	30.13/**/3 Points	57.15/**/3 Points
Rate of Hospitalization for People with Chronic Conditions (per 100,000)	449.87/**/2 Points	504.12/**/2 Points
Blood Pressure in Control	64.74/Above 75 <sup>th</sup> /3 Points	68.42/Above 75 <sup>th</sup> /3 Points
Diabetes Hemoglobin A1c Poor Control (lower rate is better)	21.52/Above 90 <sup>th</sup> /3 Points	18.77/Above 90 <sup>th</sup> /3 Points

\*Maximum points per measure = 3 \*\*No national benchmark; awarded points based on change over time

# Summary of SSP Financial and Quality Results 2014-2016

Vermont Medicaid Shared Savings Program (VMSSP)									
	Actual PMPM			PMPM Savings (Loss)			Quality Score		
	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016
<b>CHAC</b>	\$189.83	\$182.06	\$180.53	\$24.85	\$7.03	\$0.75	46%	57%	70%
<b>OneCare</b>	\$165.66	\$171.55	\$168.88	\$14.93	\$(2.18)	\$(3.41)	63%	73%	77%
<b>VCP</b>									

NOTE: 2014 and 2015 results based on 6 months of claims runout; 2016 based on 4 months.

# Ongoing Assessment of Measure Impact

- Additional monitoring measures related to utilization and cost can help identify unintended consequences
- Review of trends over time and among ACOs can highlight variation (e.g., “Data Summit” for ACOs, payers and QI leaders)
- Annual measure review ensures that specifications are current and evidence changes are addressed (e.g., LDL screening, mammography)
- Ongoing stakeholder feedback (e.g., from providers) can identify issues that arise at the working surface

# Thank You

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Alicia Cooper

Director of Payment Reform

Department of Vermont Health Access

[alicia.cooper@vermont.gov](mailto:alicia.cooper@vermont.gov)



1. Welcome and introductions



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7. Wrap-up

# Key Takeaways

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- **Carefully consider stakeholders for inclusion in developing and setting benchmarks**
- **Choose the method for benchmarking that suits the context and goals for measurement**
- **Set benchmarks to motivate, not demoralize**
- **Allow opportunities for adjustment to benchmarks over time**



# Additional Resources

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- Webinar Slides and accompanying issue brief

<https://www.medicaid.gov/state-resource-center/innovation-accelerator-program/iap-functional-areas/index.html>