



# Primary Care Review

The latest news, views, and announcements  
from Michigan Multipayer Initiatives

**August 2022**

*Michigan Multipayer Initiatives (MMI) convenes payers, practices, and Physician Organizations to transform primary care and improve care value, equity, quality, and patient experience in Michigan. To be added to our distribution, email [multipayerprimcare@med.umich.edu](mailto:multipayerprimcare@med.umich.edu). Find us online at <https://mimultipayerinitiatives.org/>. To share an idea or ask a question, please contact Diane Marriott ([dbechel@umich.edu](mailto:dbechel@umich.edu) or 734 740 0511).*

## Behavioral Health Integration Tools and Resources for Your Practice

The AAFP and seven other physician organizations formed the [Behavioral Health Integration Collaborative](#). It is focused on incorporating behavioral and mental health into overall health care and giving clinicians support to deliver these services in a primary care setting.

Their free [webinar series on overcoming obstacles to behavioral health integration](#) is a great source to learn about a range of key topics including billing and coding, using telemedicine in collaborative care, and addressing the stigma associated with behavioral and mental health conditions. They have upcoming webinars planned on suicide risk reduction and incorporation of psychopharmacology into primary care practice.

They also have a new tool for physicians interested in behavioral health integration, the [BHI Compendium](#), that provides additional information and resources on the integration process.

## MDHHS Chronic Disease Accelerator Session and News on the Social Determinants of Health Strategy

MDHHS just released the [August edition of their Social Determinants of Health \(SDoH\) Strategy newsletter](#). Included is an invitation to [register](#) for an October 11th session from 1:30 to 3pm on the new SDoH Chronic Disease Accelerator Plan. You will also find information in it about a new grant opportunity to address food and nutrition insecurity as well as read about the appointees who will serve on the new Community Information Exchange (CIE) Task Force. The task force will work to bring providers of care, community-based organizations, industry, and governmental experts together to develop a statewide approach for community information exchange aimed at sharing information to identify and close SDoH gaps in the interest of enhancing health and well-being.

## Help MDHHS Create a More Equitable, Coordinated and Person-Centered Medicaid Program: Provide Your Input by August 26<sup>th</sup>

In an effort to listen to stakeholders of all kinds – people, providers, plans, communities, and the many others who work for a healthier future for Michiganders – MDHHS is soliciting public input in an [online survey](#) to inform the strategic pillars that will guide the State’s strategy to strengthen Medicaid coverage in its upcoming Medicaid Health Plan rebid.

Responses are due by August 26<sup>th</sup> and feedback will help guide preparation efforts for the new Medicaid health plan contracting process. It is a great opportunity to share your perspectives and ideas. MDHHS also encourages survey responses from Medicaid beneficiaries as well.

## Diabetes and Hypertension Toolkits for Practices: Updated for 2022

The Wisconsin Collaborative for Healthcare Quality (WCHQ), a community of stakeholders partnered with the UW-Madison School of Medicine and Public Health, works to transform care delivery and population health. They have published an excellent 2022 Toolkit for Improving Chronic Conditions focused on Hypertension, Diabetes control, and Pre-diabetes. It offers detailed improvement strategies with implementation guidance ordered in such a way that no matter what your practice’s level of sophistication and prowess, all can find value. [The toolkit is attached](#), and [you can also sign up for additional updates as they are published by registering with them directly](#).

## Telehealth Proposed Policy Out for Public Comment

The State has released their [proposed post-COVID telehealth policy](#) for public comment. The policy is intended to describe the services proposed for coverage after the public health emergency ends. Comments should be sent to Laura Kilfoyle ([KilfoyleL@michigan.gov](mailto:KilfoyleL@michigan.gov)) by September 6, 2022.

## Health Equity Advisory Councils Form in 11 Counties Across the State

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services announced the formation of 11 Regional Health Equity Advisory Councils to “combat health disparities among high-risk and underserved communities.” The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Center for State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Support will provide funding.

The eleven areas where councils will be established are:

- Genesee County
- Ingham County
- Kent County
- Oakland County
- Ottawa County
- Macomb County
- Muskegon County
- Saginaw County
- Washtenaw County
- Wayne County
- City of Detroit

Each will have a supporting backbone organization that will collaborate with the community to:

- Reduce COVID-19 disparities among ethnic minority populations;
- Reduce community identified priority risk factors;
- Develop and implement practices and policies to promote equity and reduce health disparities;
- Equitably distribute and efficiently use resources; and
- Emphasize community driven decision making and priority setting.

The councils are slated to complete their activities by May 31, 2023. More information will be posted as it is available.

## **MMI Steering Committee Advises HHS on Actions to Strengthen Primary Care**

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) extended an invitation in the Federal Register for recommendations about how they can work to strengthen primary care. The MMI Steering Committee responded to the call and made specific recommendations to HHS in the following areas:

- Suggesting that CMMI offer a new multipayer demonstration focusing on collaborative care;
- Providing briefings to groups working in voluntary collaboration such as MMI on current key issues such as payment for non-traditional health team members, adjusting payments to incorporate health equity considerations, and implementing prospective attribution methodologies;
- Extending the telehealth flexibilities introduced during the public health emergency; and
- Implementing key Medicare policy updates including rebalancing relative value units to better reward primary care.

Thanks to the MMI Steering Committee for their quick work and thoughtful suggestions to HHS. We also extend kudos to HHS for providing the opportunity for organizations from all sectors to provide input. It takes courage and commitment to invite outside observations about interagency

communication and coordination. HHS has taken this key step forward and is to be commended for their commitment to strengthening primary care.

## **The Key To Improving Population Health And Reducing Disparities: Primary Care Investment**

In a March 2022 study of high-income countries published by the Commonwealth Fund, US adults were the least likely to have a longstanding relationship with a primary care provider. Why? The authors of a July 2022 Health Affairs [article](#) point to primary care investment in the US. Clinician burnout, attrition and retirement are making the problem even worse.

In a time when primary care team-based care is more important than ever to manage chronic disease and partner with patients to support behavioral change, primary care practice teams need sufficient payment to provide a suite of services to support their patients.

There is hope on the horizon. The authors point to efforts across the nation that are working to revitalize primary care. They emphasize federal partnering with states as the most promising model for increasing levels of primary care investment.

### **Test Your Knowledge!**

Here are three acronyms that you will increasingly see in the primary care environment. See if you can figure them out! Answers can be found at the end of this newsbriefing.

**SOGI** (Hint: This has to do with patient demographic information.)

**REAL** (Hint: This one does, too!)

**ELSI** (Hint: Think about emerging technologies.)

### **The Training Corner**

To better serve you, we have expanded the array of care management and team-based care training sessions. We are fortunate to have MiCMT, MiCCSI, MiCHWA and PTI to provide expert training on important topics in primary care.

#### **Michigan Institute for Care Management and Transformation (MiCMT) - Training and Webinar Announcement**

A list of upcoming trainings, including live webinars, can be found in the News and Events section of MiCMT's website: <https://micmt-cares.org/events>. For an at a glance view, please find the event calendars and event flyers in the "News" section [here](#). Questions and concerns can be shared at <https://micmt-cares.org/contact>.

## The Michigan Center for Clinical Systems Improvement (Mi-CCSI) - Training and Webinar Announcement

This month, we would like to also feature Mi-CCSI's Motivational Interviewing training with Laura Saunders, an experienced clinician who is recognized nationally, and is a MINT trainer. The series can be attended in full or by the session of interest. The series includes:

### Motivational Interviewing

- **SESSION 1: SPIRIT OF MOTIVATIONAL INTERVIEWING**

This session will explore the spirit of motivational interviewing and refine skills and knowledge in practical application.

**To be repeated in the later Summer/Fall.**

Even more can be found in the "TRAINING" section of Mi-CCSI website:

LIVE VIRTUAL TRAININGS: <https://www.miccsi.org/upcoming-live-training-events/>

ON-DEMAND WEBINARS: <https://www.miccsi.org/recorded-training-events/>

Or to select by Topic, simply go to:

1. [www.miccsi.org](http://www.miccsi.org)
2. Hover over "TRAINING"
3. Select offering by name from dropdown menu

## Michigan Community Health Workers Alliance (MiCHWA)

A list of upcoming trainings can be found in the News & Events section on the MiCHWA website: <https://www.michwa.org>. Current pdf training flyers are also listed below for your convenience.

- [MiCHWA Training Flyer 982022](#)
- [MiCHWA Training Flyer 10242022](#)
- [MiCHWA Muskegon Community College Training Flyer 10242022](#)
- [October December MiCHWA Training Flyer](#)

## Practice Transformation Institute (PTI)

A list of upcoming trainings can be found in the Events section of the PTI's website: <https://www.transformcoach.org/today/>. Current offerings include Introduction to Team Based Care, Introduction to Palliative Care, Foundational Care Management Codes and Billing Opportunities, Patient Engagement and Unconscious Bias in Health Care.

- [Intro Team Based Care Flyer All Dates of 2022v3](#)
- [Intro to Palliative Care Flyer All Dates of 2022v3](#)
- [Foundational Coding and Billing Flyer Sept2022](#)
- [Unconscious Bias Flyer 2022v5](#)

## Test Your Knowledge: THE ANSWERS

### ***SOGI = Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity***

SOGI data helps providers better understand a complete patient, including how a person describes themselves.

### ***REAL= Race, Ethnicity and Language***

REAL data elements are important so that improvements in achieving health equity can be measured. It is also important so that care can be tailored to a patient's preferences.

### ***ELSI = Ethical, Legal, and Social Implications***

ELSI is often used to describe research or thinking that focuses on the implications of emerging technologies. You will often hear this associated with genomic research, but also to evaluate technologies that are developed for population health and equity applications.