

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF THE HEALTHCARE ADVOCATE
STATE INNOVATION MODEL PROGRAM MANAGEMENT OFFICE**

**REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS (RFA)
Advanced Medical Home Vanguard Initiative**

FIRST Addendum

RELEASE DATE – 032615

The SIM PMO's official responses to questions submitted as of March 26, 2015 are as follows:

1. Our Hospital and Employed Physician Network participate in the following payer programs— all of which include a shared savings component:
 - BPCI – Our Hospital is a Model 2 participant in CMMIs BPCI program with the aim of reducing cost and improving quality for Medicare beneficiaries in select bundles (groups of DRGs). Our Employed physicians are involved in the program as principle accountable providers and potential gain-sharers for eligible episodes as defined by program requirements and their agreements with The Hospital and the Awardee Convener.
 - Commercial Insurance Programs– Our Employed Physician Network participates in 2 commercial insurance programs designed to improve care coordination and reduce overall healthcare costs of the services attributed patients receive. The programs include a care coordination fee paid to the group as well as a shared savings component for meeting quality and cost targets.

Can you confirm that participation in these programs would qualify us for consideration as an Advanced Network?

Response: From the description, it appears that the BPCI model would not qualify. Your commercial insurance program arrangements would qualify if the shared savings component is based on total cost of care.

2. Our Hospital is designated as a Planetree Hospital; at this time - our employed physician ambulatory practices are not designated – though we plan to roll out Planetree training in the medical practices in the coming year. Our assumption is that this is a positive attribute of our proposed application– but we want to confirm that this does not pose any conflict or negatively impact our eligibility.

Response: This would not negatively impact your eligibility for this RFA.

3. Our Employed Physician network operates multiple Primary care offices in approximately a dozen locations; we intend to take a phased approach for PCMH transformation – starting with a smaller subset of the Primary Care practices. For purposes of our application to the AMH Vanguard Program –understanding you are planning for a 15 month window for the program - is it acceptable if our application is only for practice transformation support for the smaller subset of practices and their associated physicians (i.e. not the entire Primary Care complement of our employed physician network)?

Response: We prefer applicants with a larger number of practices. However, we would consider an applicant with a smaller cohort of practices depending on our overall applicant pool.

4. As we work to transform our employed physician network's Primary Care Offices to PCMH – we plan to participate in the Medicaid PCMH Glide Path Program. We have completed the readiness assessment for the small subset of Primary Care practices referenced in the question above, but have not yet executed agreements for participation. Does participation in this program impact our eligibility (i.e. make us ineligible) for participation in the AMH Vanguard program?

Response: As noted on page 5 of our RFA, “practices that participate in the AMH Vanguard Program may be eligible for the enhanced fees available to practices that are enrolled in the Medicaid PCMH program, while pursuing NCQA recognition and once such recognition is achieved. Such practices will be expected to formally enroll and actively participate in the Medicaid PCMH and must follow all associated program rules. More information will be provided regarding this process when the successful applicant is selected.”

Applicants are encouraged to enroll in the Medicaid PCMH, however, practices that are also enrolled in the AMH Vanguard initiative would be expected to receive their practice transformation services from Qualidigm rather than CHNCT. We are still working with DSS on coordinating these processes.

5. Does participation in the AMH Vanguard Program preclude us from participating in / receiving support from the AMH Glide Path Program to be launched in late 2015 or early 2016?

Response: An applicant to this RFA can respond to a subsequent RFA for AMH Glide Path support for practices that have not yet achieved NCQA Level 2 or 3 recognition.