

## Introducing CMS Innovation Center Highlights!

12/20/2024



### **December 2024**

Did you miss something important from the Innovation Center? We've got you covered! Welcome to the CMS Innovation Center Highlights, where we revisit some major accomplishments and resources from the Center over the past several months. Your FOMO fix!

#### **In this Edition:**

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### **Innovative Thinking: Blogs, Podcasts and More**

#### **Just a Minute!**

Do you have questions about what the Innovation Center does and what a model is? Get quick insights and personal perspectives from CMS Innovation Center leaders and experts about what drives the work of the Center. It will only take a minute to view any of these helpful ["Just a Minute" videos!](#)

#### **Focusing a New Lens on Rural Health**

Gain insight into the Center's work on advancing rural health. Our potential path forward to transform rural health draws on themes from the [2024 Rural Health Hackathon](#) and previous Innovation Center models and demonstration projects. Read the [Reimagining Rural Health](#) report.

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## Model Milestones

### Third Cohort to Join States Advancing All Payer Health Equity Approaches and Development (AHEAD) Model

Rhode Island and a sub-region of New York (Cohort 3) will join Maryland and Vermont (Cohort 1) and Connecticut and Hawaii (Cohort 2) in AHEAD, the state-based total cost of care model. [Read more about AHEAD.](#)

### Increasing Organ Transplant Access Model to Start on July 1

The CMS Innovation Center announced that the Increasing Organ Transplant Access (IOTA) Model will begin on July 1, 2025. This 6-year, mandatory model aims to increase access to life-saving transplants for patients living with end-stage renal disease and reduce Medicare expenditures. [Learn more about the model.](#)

### Medicare Two Dollar Drug List Model Update

The Medicare \$2 Drug List model released a Request for Information for input on the drug list development process, plan participation, and more. [Read about the Center's continued work on this new model.](#)

### Cell and Gene Therapy (CGT) Access Model Reaches Manufacturer Agreement

Two drug manufacturers with FDA-approved gene therapies for sickle cell disease have entered into outcomes-based payment agreements with CMS to participate in the [CGT Access Model](#). States may now join the model through the state application portal as well as respond to an optional notice of funding opportunity. [Read more about this important milestone.](#)

### Innovation in Behavioral Health (IBH) Model Announces Participants

CMS selected state Medicaid agencies in Michigan, New York, Oklahoma, and South Carolina to participate in the IBH model. The model will be implemented statewide in Oklahoma and in designated regions of the three other states, beginning January 1, 2025. [Learn more about IBH.](#)

### Enhancing Oncology Model (EOM) Selects Second Cohort

The CMS Innovation Center accepted a second cohort of EOM participants, which will join the model in July 2025. Historical episode files were shared for a better understanding of patients' expenditure and utilization. Additionally, CMS extended the model end date and updated payment policies to increase access to enhanced oncology services. [Read more about EOM.](#)

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## Value-Based Care Spotlight

### Health Care and Social Services Working Together to Support Kids

Gloria Isabel Rodriguez understands the complex challenges faced by the people she now supports as a senior social services coordinator for the All Hands Health Network at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago, a participant in the CMS Innovation Center's [Integrated Care for Kids \(InCK\) Model](#).

Find out more in the short video [Medical Care and Social Services Work Together to Meet Kids' Needs: Gloria's Story](#).

Visit [Patient and Provider Voices](#) to view more videos and read more value-based care stories.

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## **Center Updates**

### **Complex Health Topics Explained**

Looking for a clear explanation of CMS Innovation Center topics? Key concepts are short introductions to topics that play a critical role in the CMS Innovation Center's work—minus the jargon. [Use them, share them!](#)

[Multi-Payer Alignment](#)

[Quality of Care](#)

[Social Drivers of Health and Health-Related Social Needs](#)

### **CMS Innovation Center Releases 2024 Report to Congress**

More than 192,000 health care providers and plans took part in Innovation Center models and initiatives, serving more than 57 million Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries and others from October 2022 through September 2024. Get an overview of the Center's activities and accomplishments in the recently released [2024 Report to Congress](#).

### **Evaluations & Research Reports**

Looking for the latest results from CMS Innovation Center model evaluations? [Visit the Evaluations & Research Reports page](#).