



Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation

DATE: June 3, 2015
TO: SIM Round 2 Model Test Project Directors and Teams
FROM: State Innovations Group, CMMI, on behalf of the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) for Health Information Technology
SUBJECT: Supplemental Guidance Regarding the Health IT Plan Portion of the Operational Plan

Background

The goal of the State Innovation Models (SIM) initiative is to test the ability of state governments to accelerate health transformation resulting in improved health, improved care and lower cost. The SIM initiative has four objectives: 1) to leverage federal resources to support states in the design of State Health System Innovation Plans; 2) to partner with states that are prepared to implement and test comprehensive, statewide, multi-payer models; 3) to accelerate innovations in Medicare, Medicaid and CHIP programs; and 4) to identify best practices in state-led transformation that are generalizable to all states.

The goal of a SIM Round Two Model Test award is to support awardees in using all of the policy and regulatory levers available at the state level to engage stakeholders – including multiple payers, providers, consumers, and regional and local resources– to finalize and implement a fully developed plan that results in the delivery of better care, smarter spending and healthier people through statewide transformation of the health care delivery system, payment methodologies, and integration of population health interventions. The Model Test awardees should make meaningful progress towards achieving characteristics that CMS has identified as being closely associated with transformed health care delivery systems, including the movement of over 80% of payments to providers from all payers to fee-for-service alternatives that link payment to value.

Purpose & Recommended Use of the Guidance Package

To support Model Test awardees in the development of the Health Information Technology Plan (HIT Plan) portion of their Operational Plan, the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) has developed the attached supplemental guidance package, collectively referred to as [Supplemental HIT Plan Guidance](#).

The guidance package includes the following documents:

1. Health IT Plan: Supplemental Guide for Model Test
2. Health IT Plan: Checklist
3. Health IT Plan: Workbook in Microsoft Word Format
4. Health IT Plan: Workbook in Excel Format¹

In this document and throughout the guidance package, “SIM HIT needs” are defined as health information technology solutions/processes/architecture/infrastructure that are necessary to develop and then execute the transformational activities described in a state’s Operational Plan.

¹ The content of documents #3 & 4 in this list are identical.

The guidance package is a collection of optional tools awardees may use for the following purposes:

- A. To assist the state in identifying, with their stakeholders, the SIM HIT needs required to support the collection, retention, analysis, dissemination, and use of information to develop (and ultimately implement) components of their SHSIP.
- B. To assist the awardee in fully documenting the current HIT environment within their state and to identify gaps, based on that assessment, in HIT that must be filled in order to develop and implement SHSIP components
- C. To assist the state in determining how to align existing HIT operations with their SIM HIT needs
- D. To assist the state in identifying policy and regulatory levers that can be used to accelerate HIT adoption
- E. To assist the state in identifying, based on their SIM HIT needs, groups that require technical assistance and how to deliver that technical assistance
- F. To support the creation of a valuable and informed HIT Plan Portion of the SHSIP

There is no expectation that all elements within the guidance package are relevant to every SIM Model Test awardee. CMMI does not expect nor require Model Test awardees to use or complete any of the tools contained in the guidance package. Adherence to the guidance package is NOT mandatory.

The guide and workbooks also serve as examples of the type of technical assistance that is available to SIM states through the ONC HIT Resource Center. Coordination and provision of TA is managed through the SIM Technical Assistance Solution Center (TASC), a Salesforce-based online tool available at: <http://innovationgov.force.com/SIM>. Requests for TA should be made through the SIM Project Officer or the TASC.

The HIT Plan Section of the Operational Plan

As described in the [State Innovation Models Round 2 Model Test Awardee Operational Plan Guidance](#) document released in February 2015, awardees must provide detailed descriptions for a HIT Plan in the Operational Plan due at the end of the pre-implementation year on December 1, 2015. The HIT Plan Portion of the Operational Plan should consist of the following five domains, described in detail in the accompanying guidance package:

1. Rationale
2. Governance
3. Policy
4. Infrastructure
5. Technical Assistance

In order to be successful, SIM states should consider the impact of other HIT/HIE initiatives underway in the state, such as the State Medicaid Health Information Technology Plan (SMHP) and a state's Interoperability Roadmap, when developing the HIT Plan Section of their Operational Plan.

Ultimately, in a fully transformed health care delivery and payment system, CMS believes HIT/HIE should provide the data and analytical capability to support provider practices and other organizations with improving coordination and delivery of care, exchanging clinical information on a real time basis, and improving the health of the population.
