

California Immunization Registry Gives a Boost to P4P

submitted by the California Immunization Coalition Registry Committee
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Most physicians keeping up a pediatric or family practice acknowledge that the rewards of keeping patients healthy rarely come in monetary form. But that has changed. You have probably heard about Pay-for-Performance (P4P) and maybe you have participated in the past. The fact is, in recent years, P4P has gained the attention of managed care organizations and physician organizations nationwide as an effective means to reach measurable performance standards. Bonus payments totaled \$65 million in 2007 across all participating groups in CA physician groups in eight participating health plans. The premise is straightforward: your provider group shows good outcomes, you get compensated.

Those familiar with P4P clinical measures know that childhood immunizations top the list. Fewer providers may know that the ways to meet P4P clinical measures have become more innovative, turning to information technologies to achieve objectives.

Since 2004, the Integrated Healthcare Association (IHA) who oversees the P4P program in California has used information technology (IT) measures in its measurement set. The goal is to drive health care settings to take advantage of available technology that, in turn, can improve clinical outcomes. By participating in the IT domains in your P4P program, your practice could receive 20% of your possible P4P allocation. While allocation amounts differ, individual payouts can be as much as \$10,000 per provider for participating in P4P incentive programs.

To take advantage of the P4P's IT domains, providers must participate in four qualifying activities in the two IT domain categories:

- Integration of clinical electronic data sets
- Clinical decision making at the point of care

Making CAIR work for you

The California Immunization Registry (CAIR) has been qualified by NCQA¹ in both IT domains under the P4P program. CAIR is a free system supported by the California Department of Public Health and California's local health departments. Nine regional CAIR offices ensure easy access to enroll in CAIR and get the benefits of compiling scattered immunization records into a shared database, generating lists of which patients need shots, programming reminders, and forecasting shots due for future visits, including individual patient immunizations-due routing slips. The CAIR software is user-friendly

¹ NCQA - [National Committee for Quality Assurance](#)

enough for medical assistants, and already in use at thousands of provider offices throughout California.

Under P4P compliance rules developed by IHA, to fulfill measurement 1, physician groups would need to submit documentation that during the current year they were using CAIR for population management related to immunizations (e.g., creating actionable reports or query lists from the CAIR).

For P4P measurement 2, physician groups must measure what percent of their primary care providers (PCPs)—or the percent of commercial HMO members PCPs are serving—are using CAIR at the point-of-care to determine what immunizations are needed. At least 50% of a group's PCPs (or 50% of their commercial HMO members) must be using the registry during the current year. Data audits of participants are handled by IHA.

To learn more about how to enroll in CAIR to help your group qualify for the two P4P IT domains, visit www.ca-siis.org to contact your regional CAIR affiliate. To learn more about participating in P4P in California, visit www.iha.org