Oregon Progress Report

STATE ACTIONS PROTECTING PATIENTS IN THE EXCHANGE

OVERVIEW

States vary in terms of the patient-centeredness of their health insurance markets. While federal rules set minimum requirements for consumer protections, some states have acted to make their markets more patient-focused. This scorecard evaluates states based on five key areas that assess patient-friendliness of their insurance markets to promote policies that best protect patients.

FIVE PATIENT-FOCUSED PRINCIPLES

NON-DISCRIMINATION

To ensure cost sharing and other plan designs do not discriminate or impede access to care.

- ◐ No state action to limit discrimination.
- ◐ Two unique platinum offerings in the 2015 exchange.
- ◐ No state action on provider network requirements.
- ● The premium for the 2nd lowest cost silver plan is 6% higher in 2015 than it was in 2014.[2]

For non-discrimination metrics, relative to other states, Oregon is a

Low-Performing State

TRANSPARENCY

To promote better consumer access to information about covered services and costs in exchange plans.

- ◐ HealthCare.gov links to external provider networks and formularies and also allows consumers to filter search results. However, the website lacks a formulary search tool, a provider search tool, and calculators to help estimate tax credit or out-of-pocket expense amounts.
- ◐ No state action regarding contracting requirements for plan information transparency.

For transparency metrics, relative to other states, Oregon is a

Low-Performing State

OREGON HIGHLIGHTS

Oregon is a supported state-based exchange. Although the state created its own exchange, called Cover Oregon, it is enrolling individuals through the federal enrollment portal, HealthCare.gov.

In the 2014 plan year, 77,300 Oregonians selected an exchange plan through HealthCare.gov. About 24% of Oregon residents who are eligible for exchange coverage enrolled in an exchange plan in 2014.[1]

Oregon expanded Medicaid, effective in 2014.

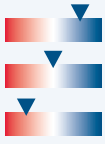
PROGRESS LEGEND

This report measures states using two methods of evaluation:

First, the report measures a state's performance on a series of metrics related to the five principles.

- ● Beneficial for Patients
- ◐ Neutral for Patients
- ● Negative for Patients

Second, the report compares a state's aggregate performance on all metrics within each principle to other states' performance on these same metrics.



High-Performing

Average-Performing

Low-Performing

STATE OVERSIGHT

To ensure all health insurance exchange plans meet applicable requirements.

- Active purchasing—the state actively negotiates with plans to participate in the exchange.
- Oregon requires multi-year contracts and limits the number of bids submitted by issuers.
- Its effective rate review program allows the state to manage premium increases.[3]
- Eleven carriers in the 2015 exchange market.

For state-oversight metrics, relative to other states, Oregon is a

High-Performing State

UNIFORMITY

To create standards to make it easier for patients to understand and compare exchange plans.

- Oregon standardized benefit designs.
- The quality rating system planned by the federal government for use on HealthCare.gov will show ratings for the 2017 plan year.
- No state action on standardized display of plan information.

For uniformity metrics, relative to other states, Oregon is a

High-Performing State

CONTINUITY OF CARE

To broaden sources of coverage and protect patients transitioning between plans.

- No state action on continuity-of-care requirements.[4]
- Oregon expanded Medicaid, which now covers an estimated 405,000 people in the state.

For continuity-of-care metrics, relative to other states, Oregon is an

Average-Performing State

A MORE PATIENT-FOCUSED OREGON MARKETPLACE

Oregon has not exercised its full authority to regulate the exchange to promote patient protections. Although Oregon is a state-based exchange, its reliance on HealthCare.gov for enrollment reduces its ability to influence shopping tools available to customers. Oregon would have more control over exchange plans if the state operated its own enrollment platform. The state also could consider oversight activities that would screen exchange plans for discrimination, and bolster requirements for plan information transparency. Further, the state has very few platinum plans, which limits options for the people who would benefit most—those with chronic conditions and disabilities. Contracting requirements could encourage, or potentially require, carriers to offer a platinum plan.

METHODOLOGY

Data by Avalere Health as of January 1, 2015. Avalere maintains a proprietary database of state policy developments for all 50 states and DC. Avalere also used key resources from publicly available websites, cited where applicable. Avalere conducted a focused review of state exchange insurance markets; this assessment is not intended to be a comprehensive review of state insurance markets. Avalere only included finalized actions established in the state, and did not include proposed measures or actions.

For definitions of key terms, see the National Health Council's Putting Patients First® glossary.

1 Kaiser Family Foundation, "Estimated Number of Individuals Eligible for Financial Assistance through the Marketplaces," November, 2014, accessed via: http://kff.org/other/state-indicator/estimated-number-of-individuals-eligible-for-premium-tax-credits-through-the-marketplaces/

2 Kaiser Family Foundation, "Analysis of 2015 Premium Changes in the Affordable Care Act's Health Insurance Marketplaces," January 06, 2015, accessed via: http://kff.org/health-reform/issue-brief/analysis-of-2015-premium-changes-in-the-affordable-care-acts-health-insurance-marketplaces/

3 The Center for Consumer Information & Insurance Oversight, "State Effective Rate Review Programs," April 16, 2014, accessed via: http://www.cms.gov/CCIIO/Resources/Fact-Sheets-and-FAQs/rate_review_fact_sheet.html

4 Families USA, "Standards for Health Insurance Provider Networks: Examples from the States," November 2014, accessed via: http://familiesusa.org/sites/default/files/product_documents/ACT_Network%20Adequacy%20Brief_final_web.pdf