

The Alliance for Health Care Improvement

A Collaboration of Massachusetts Health Plan Medical Directors

What is The Alliance for Health Care Improvement?

The Alliance for Health Care Improvement (AHCI) is a collaboration of the Medical Directors of five Massachusetts-based health plans. AHCI was formally organized in 1999 as a 501(c)(6) corporation.

Who are the Alliance members?

AHCI's members represent Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Massachusetts, Fallon Community Health Plan, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, Health New England, Neighborhood Health Plan and Tufts Health Plan. The AHCI Board is composed of the Chief Medical Officer and one other senior Medical Director from each health plan.

What is the Alliance's purpose?

The Alliance exists to promote collaboration on cost-effective, population-wide strategies designed to improve the health status of health plan members and the community at large. More specifically, our goals are:

- To improve the quality of health care in the communities that we serve;
- To assist member organizations in quality improvement initiatives;
- To streamline administrative requirements so providers can focus on health care; and
- To enhance appropriate dialogue, education and collaboration regarding care management, clinical quality, patient rights and other areas of benefit to patients.

The Alliance does not participate in any activities that might be anti-competitive such as engaging in discussions about, or making joint decisions regarding, contracting, payment policies or fee schedules.

Why was the Alliance formed?

The idea for the Alliance emerged out of a common belief among the member health plan Medical Directors that certain critical health care and health outcome improvements could best be achieved through collaboration among health plans and other key stakeholders.

What are some of the past and current activities of the Alliance?

Collaboration with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the Massachusetts Healthcare Quality Partnership on the development and dissemination of consensus preventive care guidelines.

Development and implementation of a common provider credentialing form and process.

Collaboration with the Massachusetts Healthcare Quality Partnership to develop better data regarding health system performance, to simplify and improve disease management programs, and address patient safety issues.

Collaboration with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and other key stakeholders to improve access to and increase enrollment in smoking cessation programs.

Collaboration with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health to improve adult influenza and pneumococcal immunization rates.

Collaboration with the Massachusetts Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics to identify ways to improve access to child psychiatric services.

Collaboration with the Parent Professional Advocacy League to develop and implement a toll-free information resource and support center for parents of children with mental health needs.

Collaboration with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and New England Serve to improve identification of and coordination of care for Children with Special Health Care Needs.

Collaboration with The Massachusetts Health Data Consortium on MedsInfo-ED, a system to make electronic prescription history information available to Emergency Departments.