

Rural Hospital Closures and the Drive Toward Value

Brock Slabach

Chief Operations Officer
National Rural Health Association

John Supplitt

Senior Director, Rural Health Services
American Hospital Association



1

AGENDA

1. Closures
2. Value-Based Payment
3. Advanced Payment Models
4. Examples from the Field
5. You Can't Go it Alone

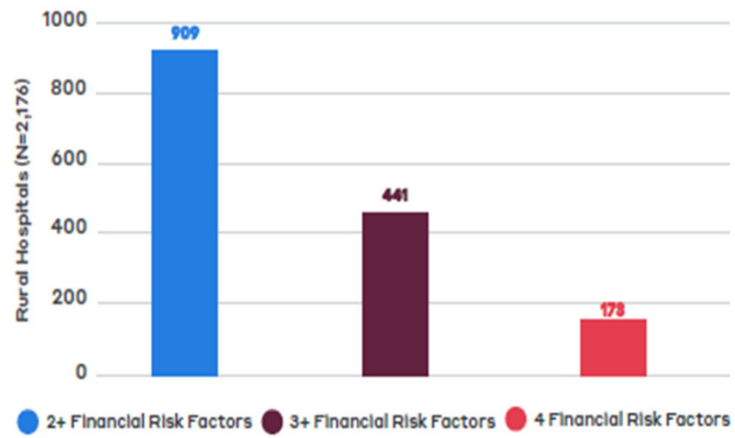
2

Financial stress affects rural hospitals, 2017-2020



**Rural Health Safety Net
Under Renewed Pressure
as Pandemic Fades**

CHARTIS



 Bipartisan Policy Center

3

Understanding the triggers driving hospital closures

Longstanding Pressures:

- Low reimbursement
- Staffing shortages
- Low patient volume
- Regulatory barriers
- COVID-19 pandemic

Inflation:

- Labor
- Drugs
- Supplies
- Equipment



4

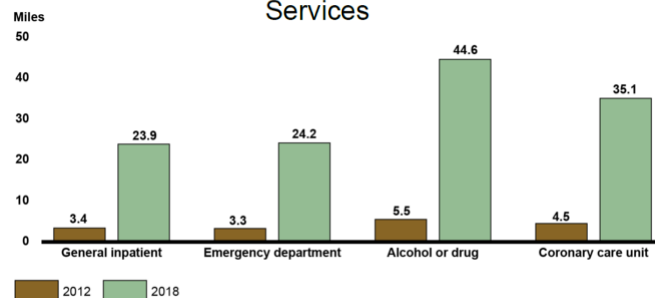
What happens when a rural hospital closes?

United States Government Accountability Office
Report to the Ranking Member,
Committee on Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs, United States
Senate

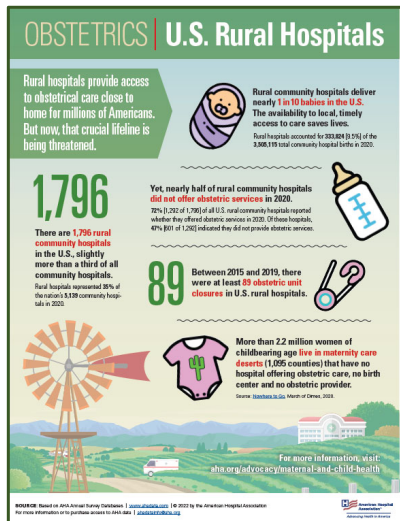
December 2020

RURAL HOSPITAL CLOSURES

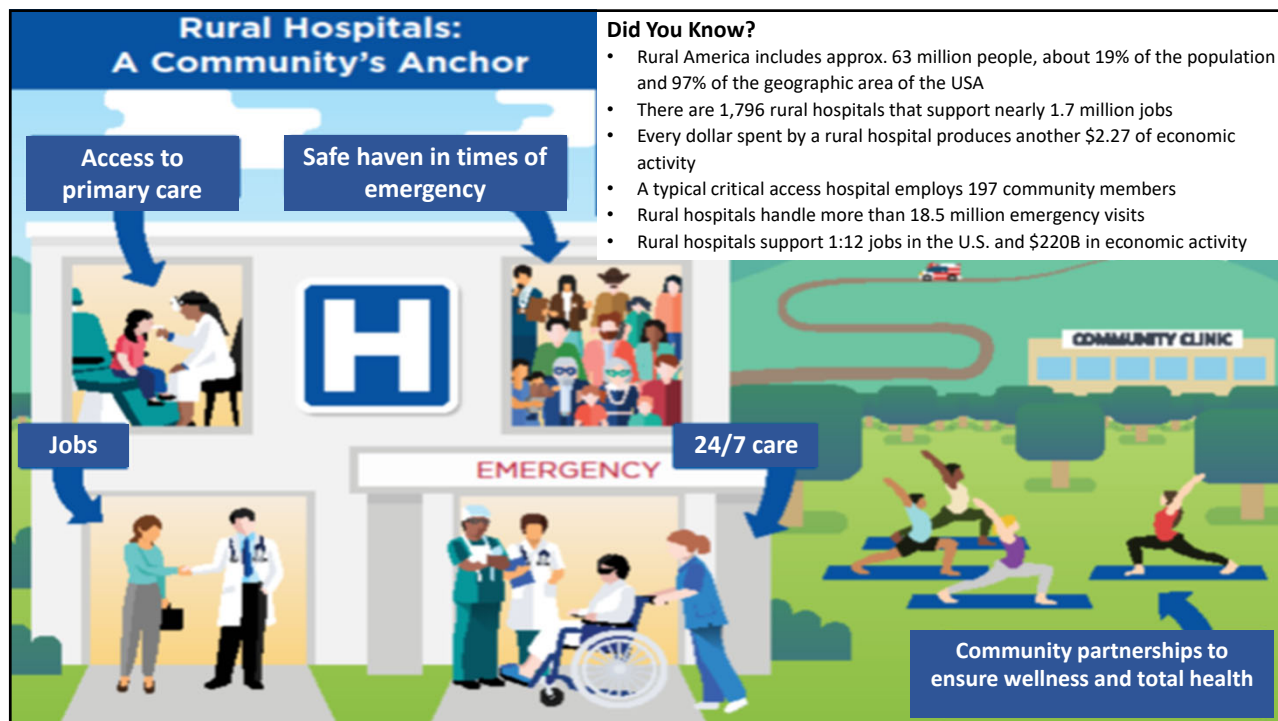
Affected Residents
Had Reduced Access
to Health Care
Services



Source: GAO analysis of data from the Department of Health and Human Services and North Carolina Rural Health Research Program. | GAO-21-93



5



6

“Whether they realize it or not, nonprofit hospitals and health systems are playing a new game. Health care’s new game centers on consumerism and value.”

-- David W. Johnson, HFMA Board of Directors.

7

Hospital Value-Based Purchasing

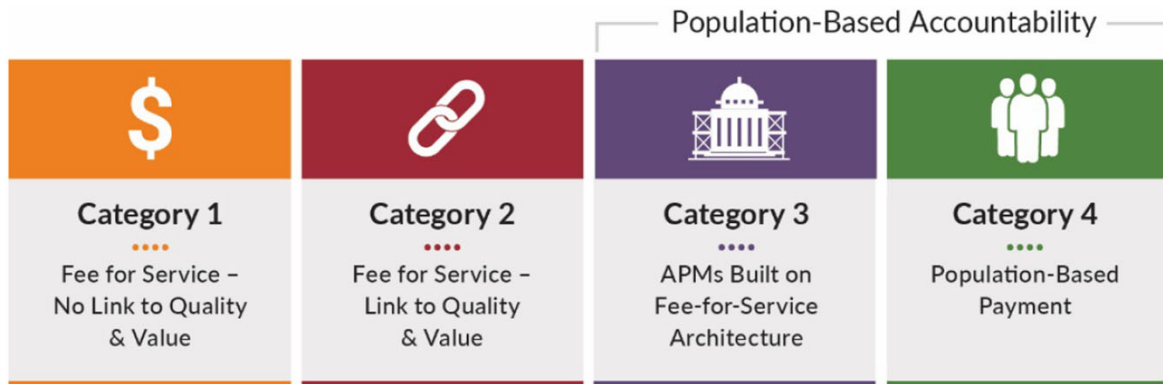
Hospital VBP Domains & Relative Weights

| Domain | Weight |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| Safety | 25% |
| Clinical Outcomes | 25% |
| Efficiency and Cost Reduction | 25% |
| Person and Community Engagement | 25% |



8

Learning Action Network APM Framework At-a-Glance

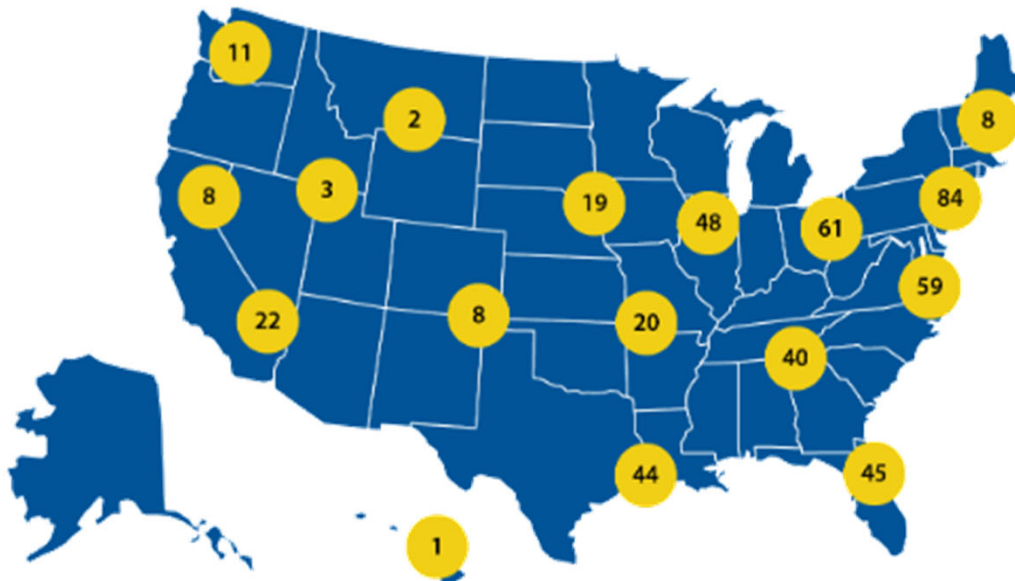


40.9% of health care dollars in a composite of Categories 3 & 4 representing approximately 238.8 million Americans and 80.2% of the covered population.



9

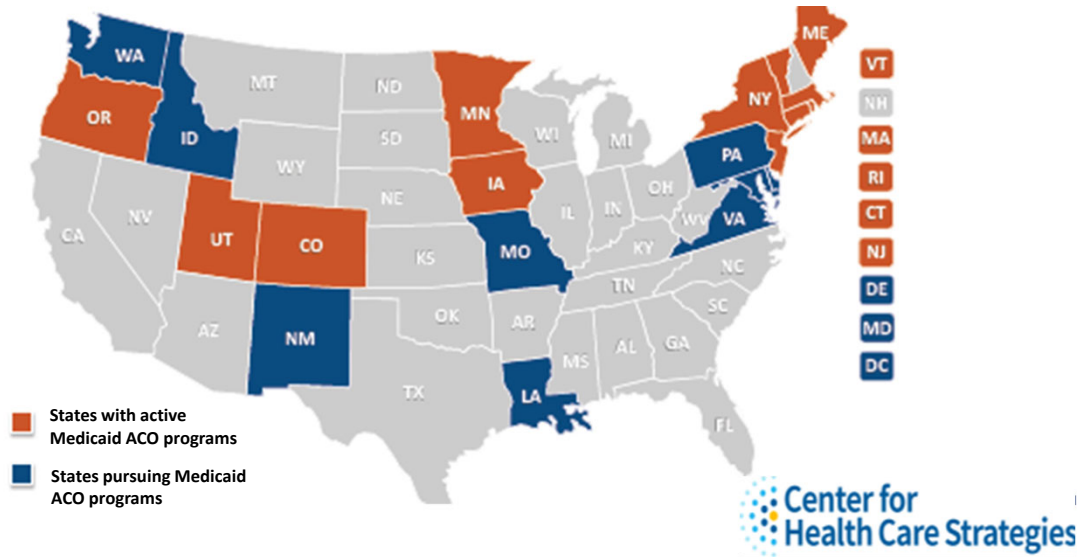
ACOs: The Vanguard of Value-based Payment



10

State Medicaid Accountable Care Organization Programs

Effective February 2018



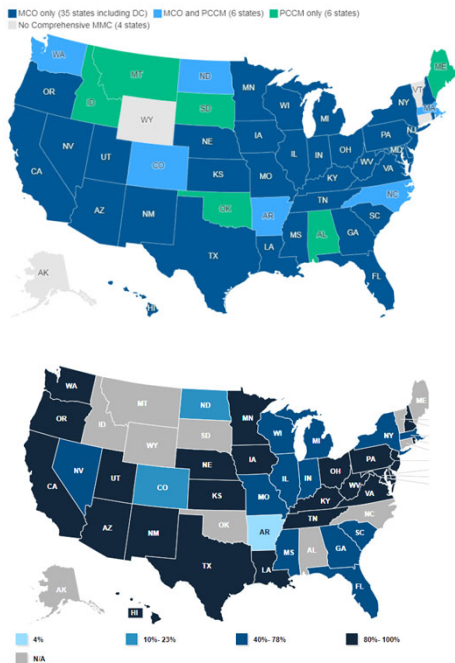
11

Medicaid Managed Care

As of July 2021, 41 states, including DC, contract with comprehensive, risk-based managed care plans to provide care to at least some of their Medicaid beneficiaries.

Five firms accounted for 50% of all Medicaid MCO enrollment.

As of July 2020, 57 million or 72% of all Medicaid beneficiaries received their care through comprehensive risk-based MCOs.

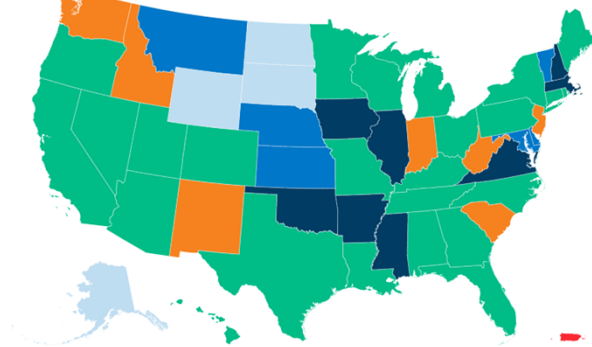


12

Medicare Advantage

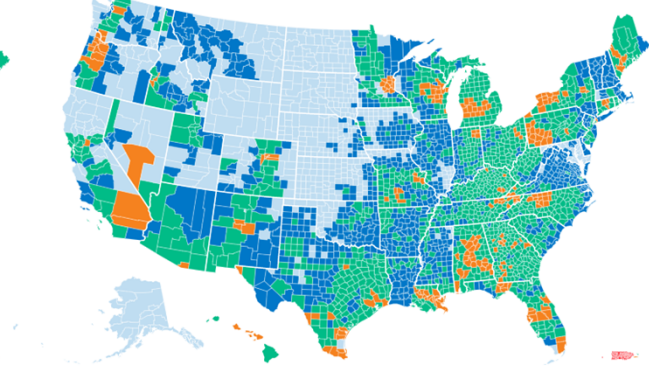
Share of Beneficiaries Enrolled in Medicare Advantage in 2022, by State

■ < 20%
 ■ 20%–30%
 ■ 30%–40%
 ■ 40%–50%
 ■ 50%–60%
 ■ ≥ 60%



Medicare Advantage Penetration, by County, 2022

■ < 20%
 ■ 20%–40%
 ■ 40%–60%
 ■ 60%–80%
 ■ ≥ 80%



KFF
HENRY J. KAISER
FAMILY FOUNDATION

13



Innovation Center Strategic Objective 1: Drive Accountable Care



Aim:
Increase the number of people in a care relationship with accountability for quality and total cost of care.

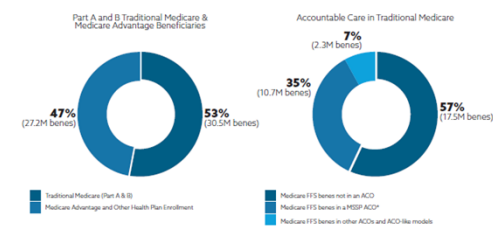
Measuring Progress:

- All Medicare beneficiaries with Parts A and B will be in a care relationship with accountability for quality and total cost of care by 2030.
- The vast majority of Medicaid beneficiaries will be in a care relationship with accountability for quality and total cost of care by 2030.

The key feature of accountable care is to give all participating providers the incentives and tools to deliver high-quality, coordinated, team-based care that promotes health, thereby reducing fragmentation and costs for people and the health system. Depending on the model or program and their respective requirements, accountable entities could include physician group practices,

hospitals, and other health care providers, Medicare Advantage (MA) plans, Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE), or even Medicaid managed care plans. In 2020, 67% of Medicare beneficiaries enrolled in Part A and Part B were in MA plans or were attributed to an accountable care organization (ACO) through either a CMS Innovation Center model or the Shared Savings Program (See Figure 2).^{8,9}

Figure 2. Medicare Beneficiaries in Accountable Care Relationships (2021).





⁸ Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC). (2020). "A Data Book: Health Care Spending and the Medicare Program."
⁹ Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC). (2020). "A Data Book: Health Care Spending and the Medicare Program."

14

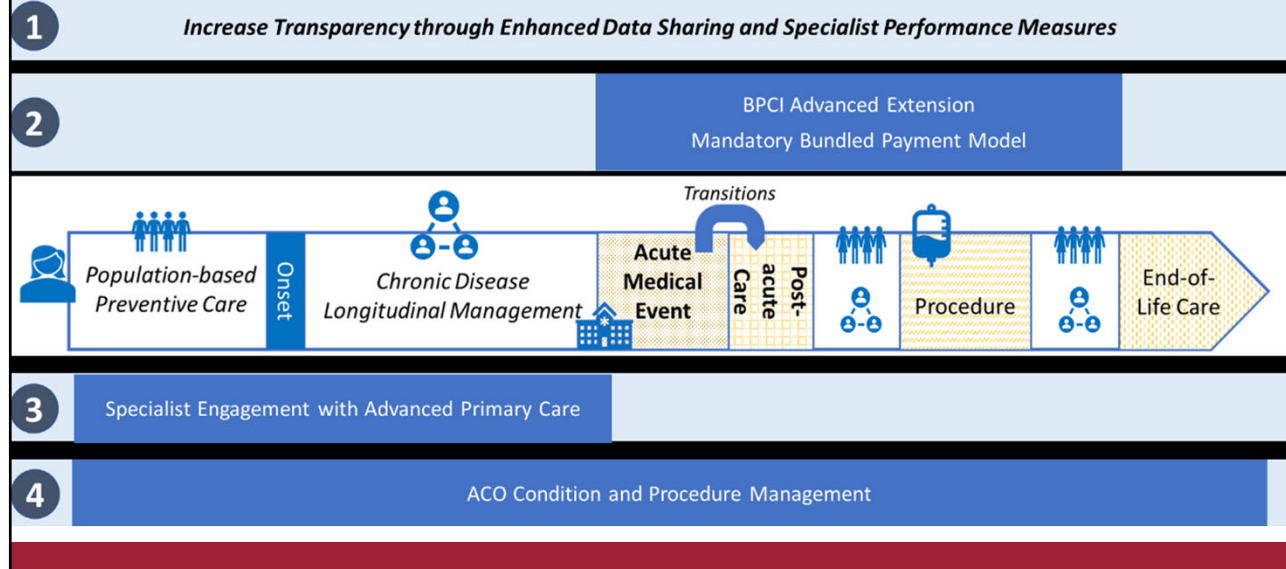


15

| Advance Investment Payments | |
|---|--|
| <div> Payment Amount Methodology</div> <div>(42 CFR § 425.630(f))</div> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• One-time upfront fixed payment of \$250,000• Additional quarterly payments<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Up to 2 years (amount based on beneficiary attributes, including Area Deprivation Index (ADI) score, Medicare Part D low-income subsidy (LIS), and dual eligible status)◦ Up to \$45 per beneficiary per month◦ 10,000 beneficiary cap for quarterly payments |
| <div> Permitted Payment Uses</div> <div>(42 CFR § 425.630(e))</div> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improve the quality and efficiency of items and services furnished to beneficiaries by investing in:<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Increased staffing◦ Health care infrastructure◦ Provision of accountable care for underserved beneficiaries, including addressing social determinants of health• ACOs must publicly report their spend plan and actual spending amounts each year• ACOs are encouraged to work with Community Based Organizations (CBOs) |
| ACO Realizing Equity, Access, and Community Health (REACH) Model | |

16

Bundled Payments for Care Improvement Advanced Model

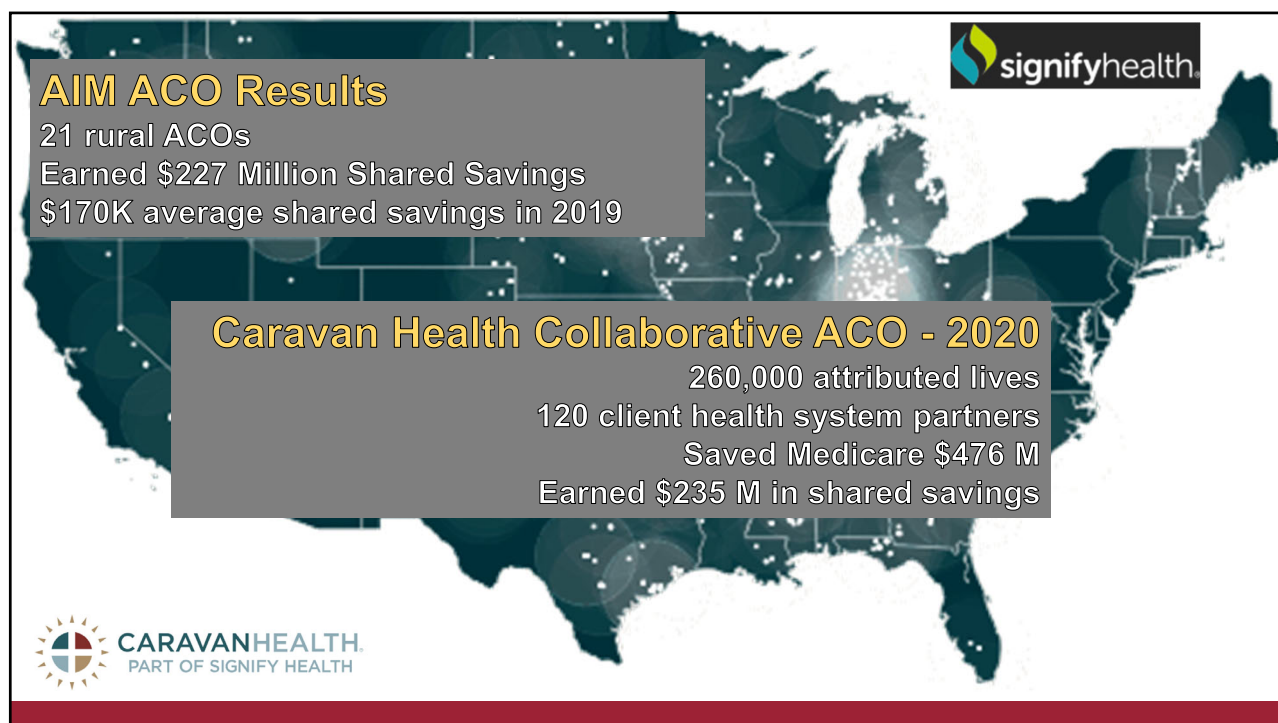


17

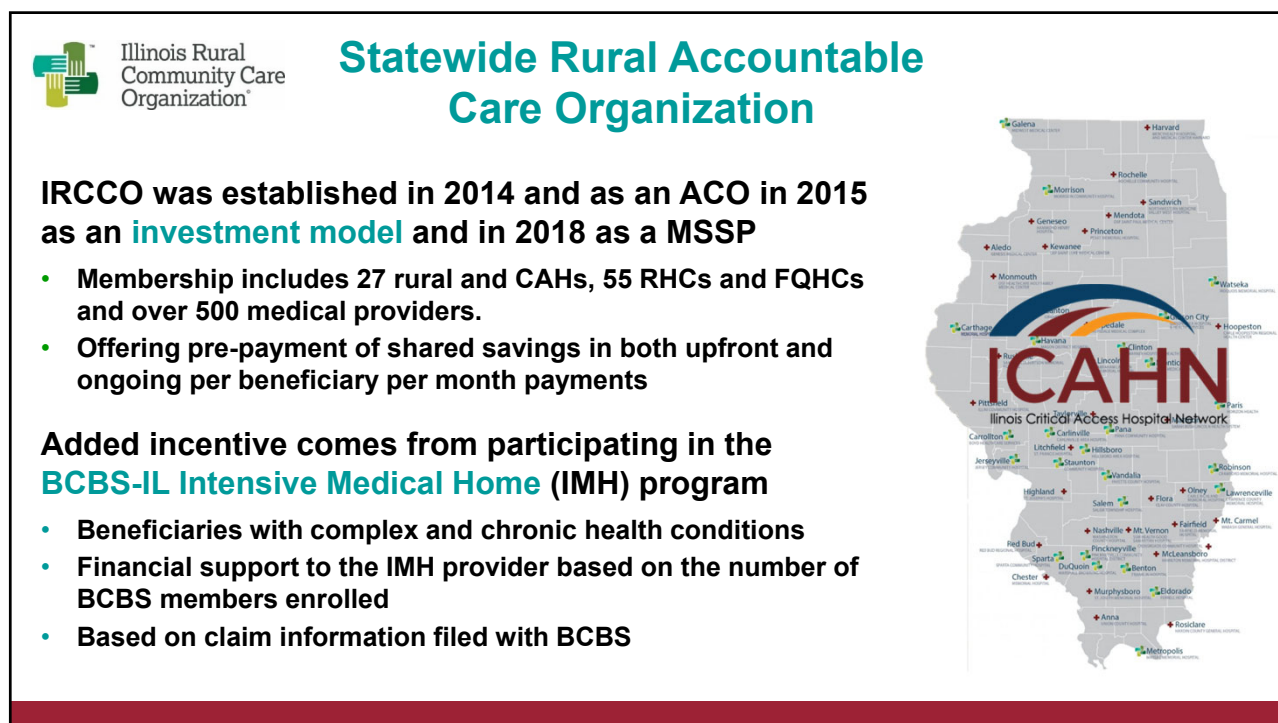
The Rural Response Advanced Payment Models



18



19



20

Preparing in Advance for VBP: 8 Practical Steps

1. **Annual Well Visit** – Medicare pays for the visit
2. **Care Coordination** – Medicare will pay for chronic care management
3. **Transitional Care Management** – Hospital practices can bill for discharge planning of Medicare beneficiaries that go home
4. **Advanced Care Planning** – Hospitals can bill professional fees for physician providing advanced care planning (Advanced Directives)
5. **Prevention Procedures** – performing mammograms, colonoscopies, A1C testing for diabetes, other preventive programs
6. **Tracking Specialty Care** – Knowing the referral patterns of your practitioners
7. **ED Visits** – Monitoring repeat ED visits
8. **Coding** – Conduct a coding audit to evaluate if you are capturing acuity codes



These are all interventions and services hospitals/clinics can do today without being in an ACO or fully invested in value-based care programs.

– Pat Schou, CEO, ICAHN

21

Initiatives to Accelerate the Development and Testing of New Payment and Service Delivery Models

Regional Budget Payment Concept

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services is seeking input on the feasibility of regional multi-payer prospective budgets as a potential payment model and potential for rural areas.

Stage: Ongoing

CMMI global budgets/all payer models

All-payer model Novel test



Maryland

Hospital global budgets to decouple hospital revenues from volume and incentivize prevention and wellness

Medicare flexibility

Allow global budgets to determine Medicare payment amounts to Maryland hospitals



Vermont

ACOs at scale statewide to incent value and quality under the same payment structure throughout the delivery system

OneCare Vermont is currently the sole ACO operating in the state..

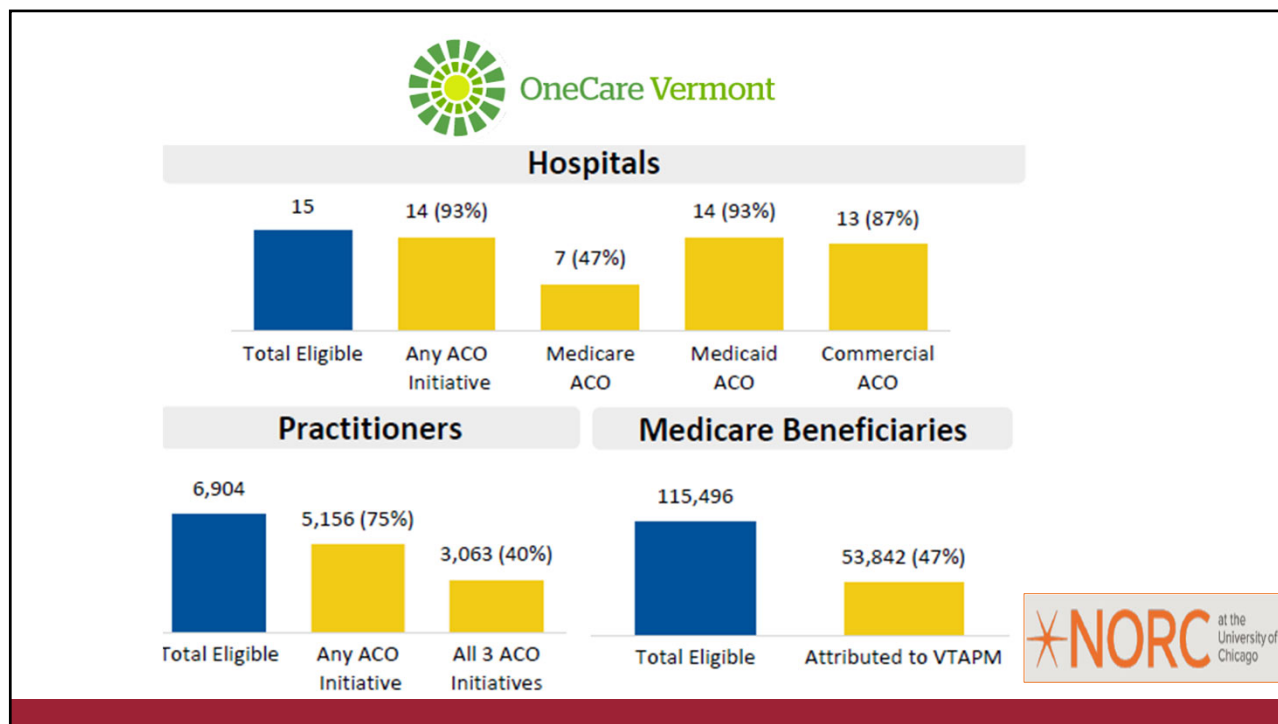


Pennsylvania

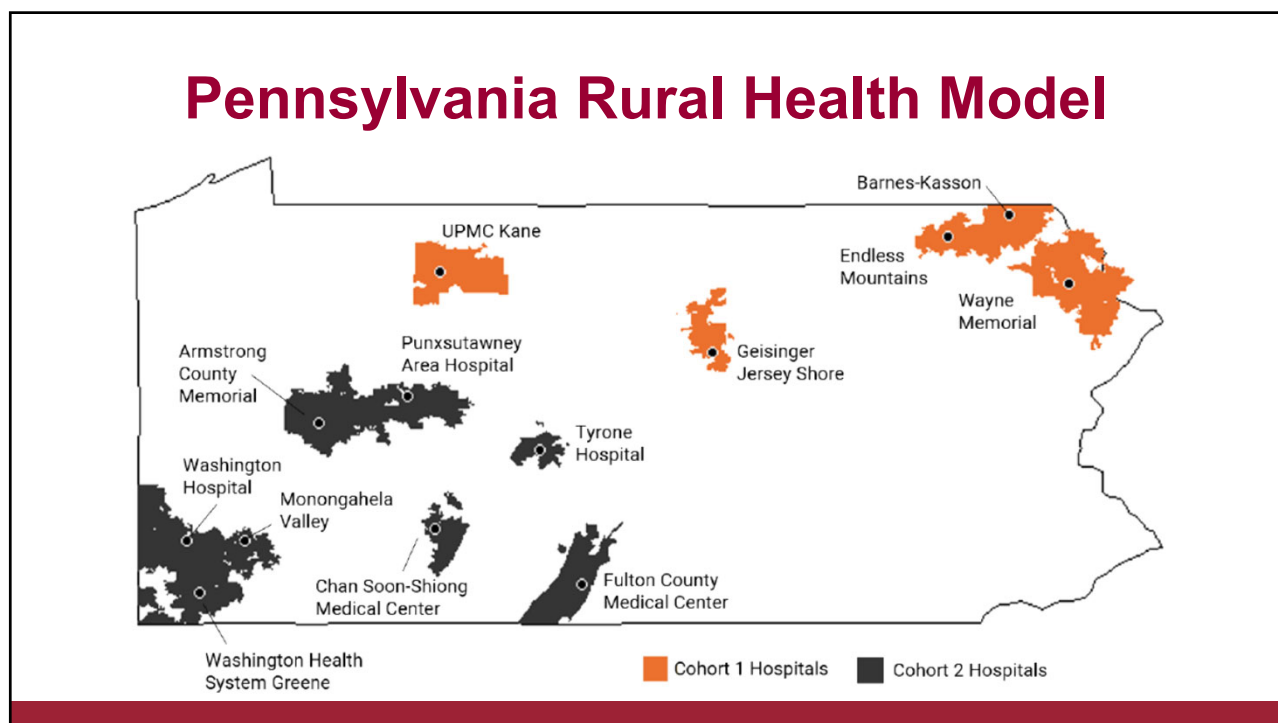
Hospital global budgets for rural hospitals and a deliberate plan to improve quality and efficiency across services and service lines

Allow global budgets to determine Medicare payments to participating Pennsylvania rural hospitals

22



23




24

Attributes That Make Global Budgets Attractive

- Guarantee a predictable revenue flow for the hospital and flexibility to allocate resources efficiently under the budget constraint
- Are well-suited for rural or relatively isolated hospitals that serve well-defined patient populations
- Can be applied to a group of hospitals that dominate a region
- Can help control year-over-year hospital expenditures through the regulation of allowed annual budget updates
- Can be adjusted to reflect demographically driven changes in demand for hospital services
- Are supportive of other budget-based efforts at cost reduction and health improvement, such as ACOs

25



Community Health Access and Rural Transformation (CHART) Model

Initiatives to Accelerate the Development and Testing of New Payment and Service Delivery Models

CHART Model

This model aims to empower rural communities to develop a high quality care delivery system through new seed funding, payment structures, operational and regulatory flexibilities and technical and learning support.

Stage: Announced

Community Transformation Track

The CHART Model Community Transformation Track aims to catalyze modernization of rural health delivery systems through three pillars: Upfront funding, Operational Flexibilities, and APMs.

Investment & Transformation

Cooperative Agreement Funding

Seed funding to facilitate community transformation


Transformation Plan

Quality Strategy & Operational Waivers


Capitated Payment APM

Prospective & Predictable Bi-Weekly Payments


Impact



Improved quality of care and health outcomes for rural beneficiaries



Improved access to care for rural beneficiaries



Increased financial sustainability for rural providers

26

The Rural Response

Examples from the Field

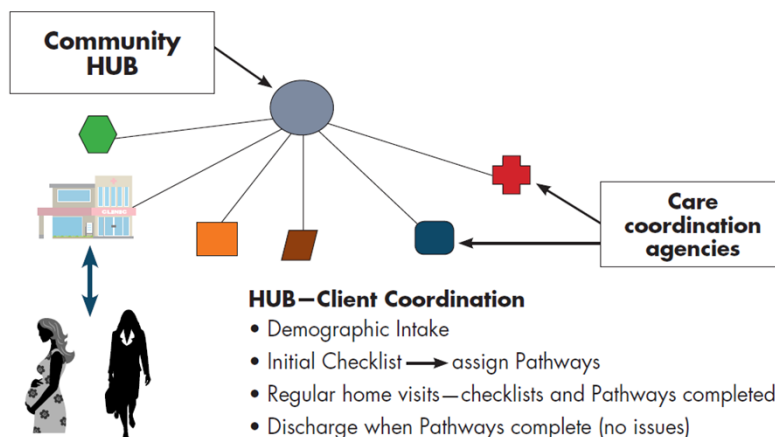


27

Improving Health and Wellbeing via Community Based Care Coordination



Regional organization and tracking of care coordination



28

Becoming a “Blue Zone” Advanced the Health of Klamath Falls, Oregon



Through collaboration with the Healthy Klamath Coalition, Sky Lakes Medical Center began a comprehensive effort to improve the health of the population culminating in the creation of Klamath Works and recognition as a Blue Zones Community for which they won the prestigious Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Culture of Health Prize.

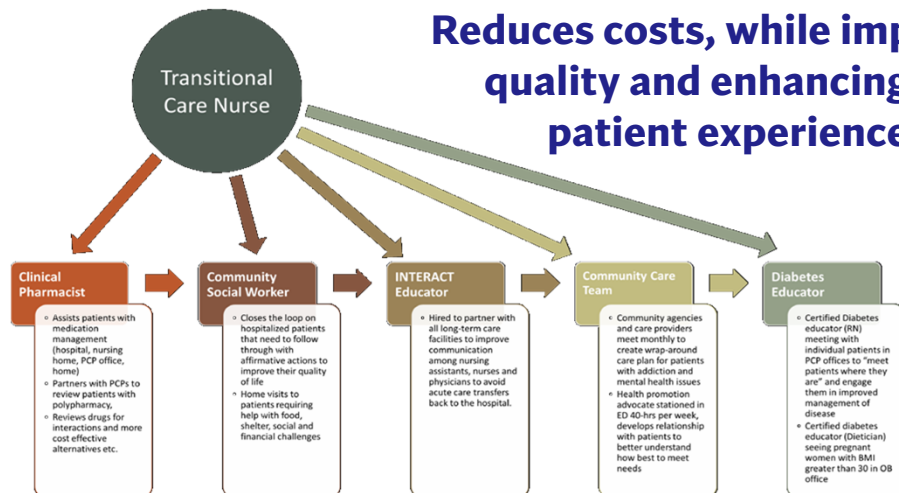


29



Transitional Care Nursing Program

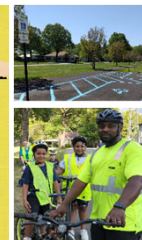
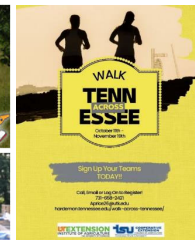
Reduces costs, while improving quality and enhancing the patient experience.



30

Feeding the Residents of Hardeman County Tennessee

West Tennessee Healthcare Bolivar General Hospital
Hardeman County Health Council



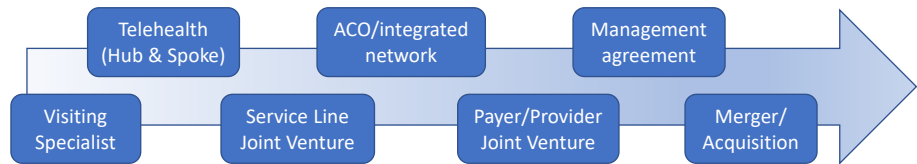
31

The Rural Response You Can't Go it Alone

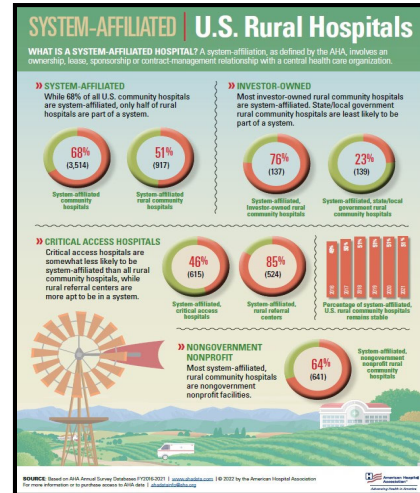
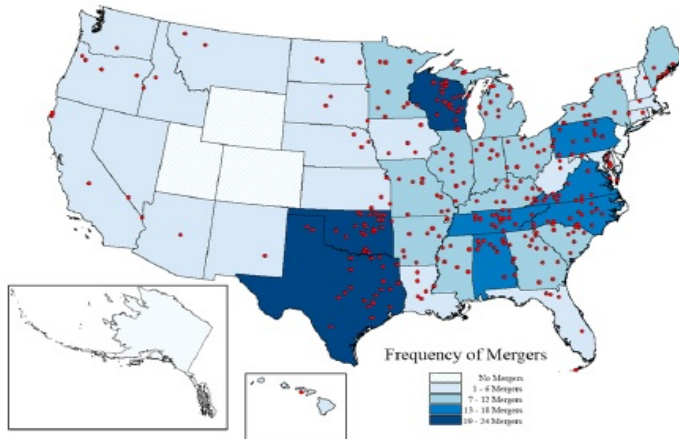


32

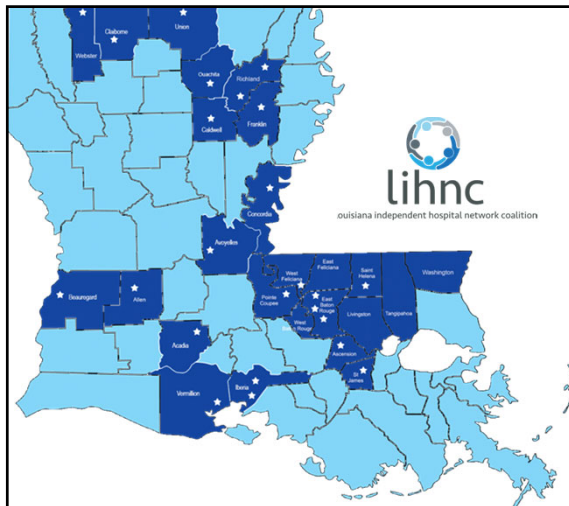
Affiliation



Unique Rural Hospitals that Merged by State, 2005-2016



33



- Each remains independent, yet protected through an alliances structure
- Achieve economies-of-scale through joint purchasing and similar strategies
- Leverage current and future information technology investments
- Sustain members as they learn to thrive under new care models
- Develop care coordination and quality improvement using evidence-based clinical guidelines
- Work together to share opportunities and develop meaningful relationships

“Simply put, we seek to ensure our continued independence by forming interdependent relationships with other healthcare providers. Pursuing integrated care delivery without integrating ownership.”

34

New Models of Payment and Delivery in Action



35

Questions and Discussion



36

Thank you

Brock Slabach
Chief Operations Officer
National Rural Health Association
bslabach@ruralhealth.us

John Supplitt
Senior Director, Rural Health Services
American Hospital Association
jsupplitt@aha.org

