

Physician Practice Connections— Patient Centered Medical Home

Getting Started

Any practice assessing its ability to achieve NCQA Physician Recognition in PPC-PCMH is taking a bold step toward aligning with the 2007 Joint Principles of the Patient-Centered Medical Home developed by the AAFP, the AAP, the ACP and the AOA. The following pages summarize the elements and provide examples of how other practices meet the requirements.

Note: Examples are not meant to imply an endorsement of a specific software or format.

To get started, a practice should consider the elements' "must-pass" requirements and its own electronic capabilities. This will help focus initial efforts to determine which elements to respond to first. Below are some basic guidelines and definitions.

Must-Pass Elements

There are 10 must-pass elements, identified by a yellow arrow on the element page. NCQA recommends that a practice start its evaluation by picking 5 must-pass elements it can meet with a performance level of at least 50%, at minimum. A practice that can meet 50% is well on the way to achieving Level 1 Recognition (refer *Achievement Levels*, below).

The must-pass elements are:

- PPC 1A • PPC 2D • PPC 3A • PPC 6A • PPC 8A
- PPC 1B • PPC 2E • PPC 4B • PPC 7A • PPC 8C

Recognition Levels

There are three levels of recognition in PPC.

| Level | Points Required | Number of Must-Pass Elements Met With a Performance Level of $\geq 50\%$ |
|-------|-----------------|--|
| 1 | 25-49 | 5 of 10 |
| 2 | 50-74 | 10 of 10 |
| 3 | ≥ 75 | 10 of 10 |

Electronic Capabilities (“IT Required” in the PPC-PCMH Standards & Guidelines)

These elements were developed with a small practice in mind and do not exclude practices with minimal electronic capabilities. Electronic capabilities are defined for each element by the following three categories.

1. **LIMITED:** Paper-based or basic (mostly administrative; for example, scheduling, claims) electronic system
2. **SOME:** Electronic system for clinical functions
3. **FULLY INTEGRATED:** Electronic system with connectivity or interoperability with other systems

More than half the elements fall within the Limited Electronic Capabilities category. The practice can focus its efforts on areas where it is most likely to meet requirements with their current IT resource use.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

American College of Physicians PCMH page:

http://www.acponline.org/running_practice/pcmh/

American Academy of Family Physicians PCMH page:

<http://www.aafp.org/online/en/home/membership/initiatives/pcmh.html>

American Academy of Pediatrics Medical Home Resource page:

<http://www.medicalhomeinfo.org/tools/providerindex.html>

American Osteopathic Association Home page: <http://www.osteopathic.org/index.cfm>

NCQA’s PPC-PCMH Home Page: www.ncqa.org/ppcpcmh.aspx

ORDER PPC-PCMH Standards and Survey Tool: www.ncqa.org/ppcpubs.aspx

NCQA Customer Support: customersupport@ncqa.org