On January 22, 2020, Governor Lamont signed Executive Order No. 5, directing the Office of Health Strategy (OHS) to develop annual health care cost growth benchmarks for calendar years 2021–2025, and convene a technical advisory group for this purpose. Other actions prescribed by the executive order include:

1. Setting targets for increased primary care spending as a percentage of total healthcare spending to reach 10 percent by 2025.
2. Developing quality benchmarks across all public and private payers beginning in 2022, including clinical quality measures, utilization measures, and patient safety measures.
3. Monitoring and reporting annually on healthcare spending growth across public and private payers.
4. Monitoring accountable care organizations and the adoption of alternative payment models.

Website

Cost Growth and Quality Benchmarks, and Primary Care Target

Implementation status

Key Staff

Victoria Veltri, Executive Director, State of Connecticut, Office of Health Strategy

Olga Armah, Research Supervisor, State of Connecticut, Office of Health Strategy

Krista Moore, Principal Healthcare Analyst

Hannah Nagy, Lead Planning Analyst

Mary Jo Capozzi, Administrator

Additional Policy Initiatives

- Prior to Executive Order No. 5, OHS established a Quality Council with broad stakeholder representation from consumers, businesses, and community-based providers, public and private plans (including Medicaid and state employee/retiree plans and carriers), and employers, which engaged stakeholders in developing comprehensive strategies to address the drivers and provide a platform for better policymaking.
- Executive Order No. 5 expanded the work of the OHS Quality Council to include the measurement and reporting of health IT utilization trends, and established the Quality Council membership to include patient safety advocates and representatives of multiple stakeholder groups.
- OHS has convened a Primary Care and Community Health Reforms Work Group to recommend strategies not only to help reduce the cost of health care (Executive Order No. 5), but also to improve the quality of care and address social determinants of health.
- OHS is working with the Medicaid program and the Office of the State Comptroller on initiatives such as the expansion of furnished benefits and high-value provider contracts.
- OHS is publishing extensive APCD-based analyses of trends, cost drivers, and disparities, and bringing them to public meetings and to a stakeholder steering committee for discussion.
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