



Primary Care First

foster independence, reward outcomes

Primary Care First Model Cohort 2 Eligibility Changes Announced

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is pleased to announce that the Request for Applications (RFA) for Cohort 2 of the Primary Care First (PCF) Model will be open to all primary care practices in the 26 PCF regions, regardless of their prior participation in the Comprehensive Primary Care Plus (CPC+) Model. Initially, PCF Cohort 2 was intended for advanced primary care practices currently participating in the CPC+ Model. However, the COVID-19 public health emergency has amplified the urgent need for establishing, preserving and reinforcing primary care across beneficiary demographics and communities. By opening participation beyond CPC+ participants to include all primary care practices that meet PCF eligibility requirements, CMS aims to empower additional practices to further transform their delivery of care and provide value to their patients.

The PCF Model will test whether financial risk and performance based payments that reward primary care practitioners for easily understood, actionable outcomes will reduce total Medicare expenditures, preserve or enhance quality of care, and improve patient health outcomes. PCF will provide payment to practices through a simplified total monthly payment that allows clinicians to focus on caring for patients rather than their revenue cycle.

The PCF Model incentivizes primary care practitioners to reduce hospital utilization and total cost of care by offering the opportunity to earn significant performance-based payment adjustments based on their performance. The PCF model seeks to improve quality of care, specifically patients' experiences of care and key outcome-based clinical quality measures, including controlling high blood pressure, managing diabetes mellitus, and screening for colorectal cancer. PCF Cohort 2 will be tested for five years and is scheduled to begin in January 2022. The RFA and Practice Application for Cohort 2 will be released in the Spring of 2021. CMS will also seek proposals from prospective payer partners.

For more information on the PCF Model, including practice eligibility, and payment, please visit the [Primary Care First website](#).