

APC Model Now Available for Primary Care Practice Transformation

Until a few months ago, the only primary care practice transformation model aligned with DSRIP standards was the Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) model established by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA).

The state of New York recently approved a similar but less rigorous model—Advanced Primary Care (APC)—which provides a different path to meet the same goals of lowering costs, improving health outcomes and patient experience of care, and may be better suited for certain types of practices.

The APC model is open to internal medicine, family medicine and pediatric practices. Based on the principles of PCMH, the APC model promotes:

- Comprehensive, patient-centric care
- Screening, prevention, chronic disease management, and the promotion of a healthy and safe environment
- Coordinated care across multiple providers and settings
- Better access to affordable care across all patient populations
- Effective, evidence-based use of health information technology (HIT)
- Outcomes-based payment models based on quality and cost performance for more than 60% of the practice's patient panel
- Performance measures that are focused and meaningful to patients, payers and clinicians

“APC presents a statewide multi-payer approach to align care and payment reform,” says Stacey Mallin, Director of Program Operations, Northwell Health Clinical Integrated Network IPA. “APC seeks to move beyond structural criteria to create meaningful and lasting changes in processes and outcomes.”

By March 31, 2018, all primary care practices in a PPS are expected to be Level 3 PCMH certified or Gate 2 APC.

“Some practices who were considering PCMH felt like they were looking at Mount Everest,” says Mallin. “The APC model may be more realistic for these practices given the workload associated with PCMH and the time that we have left.”

APC also allows practices more time to achieve practice transformation because the process is facilitated by state-approved technical assistance (TA) vendors. TAs administer the program and ultimately certify that the practice has met APC requirements.

Practices may begin enrolling in APC now.