



MACPAC
Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission



Pediatric Network Adequacy Roundtable: Initial Themes

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Network Adequacy

- Network adequacy is one of the concerns the Commission raised in its June 2014 recommendation to extend CHIP funding for two additional years.
- Network adequacy is key to children's access.
- We have often heard that CHIP networks are better than Medicaid and QHP networks.
- There is little empirical evidence to support or refute this assumption.

Network Adequacy Roundtable

MACPAC invited a diverse group of stakeholders:

- Representatives of state insurance commissioners and Medicaid and CHIP agencies
- Representatives of Medicaid, CHIP, and exchange plans
- Pediatric providers and beneficiary advocates
- Research and clinical experts
- Representatives of CMS

Questions to Participants

- What are your main concerns about the adequacy of provider networks for children?
- Are there significant differences in networks between QHPs, CHIP, and Medicaid?
- What are the effects of different regulatory standards on networks?
- What are the unique needs of children, including those with special needs?
- Should there be different standards for children and adults?
- Are current monitoring tools working?

What MACPAC Heard

While participants have concerns about network adequacy for children, they have greater concerns about differences in cost sharing and benefits.

Participants say their greatest concern is for children with special needs but that regulations should be designed to address the most common needs of a population.

What MACPAC Heard

Participants are frustrated with currently used monitoring tools.

Participants would like network adequacy measures to allow for creative solutions.

While participants agree that regulations should set a floor, they disagree on what the floor should be.

Participants recognize that there is an inherent tension between a broad network and price.

Suggested Solutions

No magic bullets, but many ideas:

- Care coordinators
- Ombudsman
- Education and outreach
- Transitional protections
- Standardized network adequacy requirements across insurance types within a state