The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) is a United States federal statute signed into law by President Barack Obama on March 23, 2010. On June 28, 2012, the United States Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of most of the ACA. The ACA is aimed primarily at decreasing the number of uninsured and reducing health care costs by improving preventative care and managing chronic diseases. The ACA, when fully implemented, will expand the number of people with health coverage, introduce strategies for improving the quality of health care, and support plans to make communities healthier places.

Iowa’s current health care system is set up to focus on treating people once they become sick. Some experts describe this as sick care instead of health care. Iowa will never be able to contain health care costs until we start focusing on preventing people from getting sick in the first place, putting an emphasis on improving the choices we make that affect our risk for preventable diseases.

Chronic diseases, including heart disease, cancer, obesity and diabetes, account for seven out of every 10 deaths and affect the quality of life for tens of thousands of Iowans. In 2007, chronic diseases accounted for 68% of all deaths in Iowa. The dramatic growth of chronic diseases is a huge burden to Iowa. If this problem is ignored, the cost of treating chronic conditions could overwhelm health care. The good news is 80% of chronic conditions can be prevented through improved lifestyle choices focusing on prevention.

**Did you know?**

The Affordable Care Act will be fully implemented in 2014. Some major changes to come include improved preventative care, elimination of annual limits on health insurance, no discrimination due to pre-existing conditions or gender, paying physicians based on value not volume, and an easier and more affordable way to purchase health insurance.

**Why is the OHCT important to promoting and protecting the health of Iowans?**

- The OHCT serves as a key point-of-contact for health care reform initiatives within IDPH including:
  - Accountable Care Organizations
  - Health Benefit Exchange (HBE) - Outreach and Consumer Engagement
  - Chronic Disease Management Initiatives
  - Patient-Centered Medical Homes/Health Homes
- The mission of the OHCT is to promote community care coordination and advance the patient-centered transformation of the health care system, which will improve care and reduce cost.
- A patient-centered medical home (PCMH) is a practice that provides care that is accessible, continuous, comprehensive, family-centered, coordinated, compassionate, and culturally effective. It is a model of care that holds significant promise for better health care quality, improved involvement of patients in their own care, and reduced avoidable costs over time.
- Beginning in 2014, tens of millions of Americans will have access to health coverage through newly established health benefit exchanges in each State which will provide one-stop shopping and make purchasing health insurance easier and more affordable to Iowans. The OHCT’s role is to ensure consumer education and outreach for the HBE.

**What do we do?**

- The goals of the OHCT are: convening stakeholders; building relationships and partnerships; streamlining efforts; and offering assistance to Local Public Health Agencies to prepare for ACA implementation by encouraging:
  - Improved overall health of Iowans
  - Patient focused & increased patient satisfaction
  - Preventing and managing chronic diseases
  - Increased access to health care
  - Less use of emergency departments and hospital readmissions
- The OHCT uses innovative strategies to build and maintain partnerships with DHS, Iowa Department of Aging, Iowa Insurance Division, and the Iowa Department of Education by regularly presenting to outside stakeholder groups on national and state health care initiatives.

- The OHCT monitors federal health care issues and disseminates the key information, opportunities, and impacts to the public and other partners.
- The Check-Up is a health reform newsletter that is a key avenue to distribute this information. The Check-Up is archived here: [http://www.idph.state.ia.us/ldphArchive/Archive.aspx?channel=CheckUp](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/ldphArchive/Archive.aspx?channel=CheckUp)
- Iowa’s Health Care Reform Act (HF 2539) has tasked IDPH with developing a plan for implementation of a statewide patient-centered medical home system and developing a state initiative for prevention and chronic care management. To do this, the OHCT coordinates a Prevention and Chronic Care Management/Medical Home Advisory Council.
How do we measure our progress?

1. The number of Health Homes and Enrollees in the Iowa Medicaid Enterprise’s Primary Care State Plan Amendment.

How are we doing? The PCCM/MH Advisory Council has collaborated closely with the Iowa Medicaid Enterprise in advancing the patient-centered medical home model and they offered input in the development of the Health Home Model.

As of December 1st, 2012, there are 17 health home entities enrolled covering 54 different clinic locations in 20 counties with 492 individual practitioners and 1853 members assigned to Health Homes.

An interactive Health Home Map can be found here: Iowa Medicaid Health Home Map.

2. The number of Local Public Health Agencies who have had Preliminary Discussions with Hospitals or Providers about the Role of Local Public Health in ACOs.

How are we doing? 58 of Iowa’s 99 counties have had preliminary discussions with hospitals or providers about the role of local public health in ACO’s (shaded in pink). This includes the 8 CMS Pioneer ACO pilot counties (shaded in blue). A detailed version of the map can be found here: Iowa Accountable Care Organization Map.

What can Iowans do to help?

1. Become more informed and knowledgeable about the Affordable Care Act initiatives that are advancing including the health benefit exchange, medical homes/health homes, and accountable care organizations.
2. Actively work toward developing partnerships within your community to prepare for changes that are coming with health care transformation.
3. Learn more about the work of the Prevention and Chronic Care Management/Medical Home Advisory Councils by visiting http://www.idph.state.ia.us/ChronicCare. Annual Reports and Issue Briefs developed by the Councils on a variety of topics related to the spread of medical homes in Iowa are available on the “Resources” tab. The issue briefs include:
   - Community Utility Issue Brief
   - Disease Registry
   - Patient-Centered Care: What Does it Look Like?
   - Social Determinants of Health Issue Brief
   - Chronic Disease Management Issue Brief
   - Iowa Diabetes Issue Brief
   - Prevention Issue Brief

Expenditures


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Note: Funding information is intended to provide an overview of funding related to the program area. It does not include all federal and state requirements and/or restrictions for the use of funds. Contact the program area for more detailed budget information.