

# Primary Pathways

Paving the Way for Behavioral Health Integration

The Primary Pathways Payment Model is a multi-payer alignment pilot to expand and support pediatric practices in caring for the behavioral health needs of their patients. The Virginia Center for Health Innovation is piloting the initiative in partnership with Anthem and Sentara Medicaid managed care organizations (MCOs).

Participants currently launching the pilot include 34 practice sites with 18,000 Medicaid members.

For more information, visit our website: <https://www.vahealthinnovation.org/primary-pathways/>

## PAYMENT STRUCTURE:

Participating health plans will provide two types of payments to participating practices:

1. Upfront capacity-building payment to support infrastructure costs
2. Per member per month (PMPM) payments for all health plan patients based on tier (payments increase as tier increases)

### TIER 1

- At least 1 or 10% of providers (whichever is greater) are trained in behavioral health
- Participate in state Health Information Exchange
- Conduct behavioral health screeners *and* integrate into electronic health record

### TIER 2

- All of Tier 1 +
- At least 50% of providers are trained in behavioral health
- Employ a care manager to support behavioral health followups and referrals, monitor data feeds for emergency department visits or hospitalizations, support scheduling needs, and coordinate with schools as needed
- Establish a care compact with a community behavioral health provider to promote bi-directional communication

### TIER 3

- Employ a virtual or in-office behavioral health specialist
- OR
- Employ the Collaborative Care Model
- OR
- Receive NCQA Distinction in Behavioral Health Integration

## PAYER BENEFITS:

- Promote whole-person care and early identification of behavioral health needs prior to costly emergency department visits.
- Increase capacity for behavioral health care while supporting primary care providers.
- Promote effective care management of high-needs patients.
- Drive quality improvement through direct incentives for practice change.
- Strengthen relationships with provider networks through direct point of contacts.
- Opportunity for connecting and networking with other participating payers and integrated care providers through monthly meetings and a protected space in the Virginia Primary Care Innovation Hub.
- Leverage market share of other MCOs in addition to your own to drive practice change and promote community partnerships across disciplines.

## QUESTIONS?

Contact [zelda@vahealthinnovation.org](mailto:zelda@vahealthinnovation.org) to learn more.



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