

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).

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

PAYMENT STRUCTURE:

Participating practices will receive two types of payments from participating health plans:

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

PROVIDER AND PRACTICE BENEFITS:

- Upfront and prospective payments to enable advanced planning for behavioral health integration.
- Support for care management activities that are otherwise not billable services.
- Access to a learning network with other participating practices and resources through the Virginia Primary Care Innovation Hub, such as care compact templates and referral resources.
- A single point of contact at the health plans.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- Must be a pediatric primary care practice in Virginia.
- Must be in-network with one or both participating Medicaid health plans (Anthem and Sentara).
- Applicants should complete VCHI's [Primary Pathways Pilot Interest Form](#).

Note: Final selection of practices is determined by the participating health plans

QUESTIONS?

Contact zelda@vahealthinnovation.org to learn more or begin the application process.



This pilot is an initiative of the Virginia Task Force on Primary Care, funded by the Virginia General Assembly.