



The CHIPRA Quality

implementing 52 projects in five general categories:

- Using quality measures to improve child health care.
- Applying health information technology (IT) for quality improvement.

2010, and will conclude on February 21, 2015. The national evaluation of the grant program started on August 8, 2010, and will be completed by September 8, 2015.



How are CHIPRA quality demonstration States testing the Children's Electronic Health Record Format?

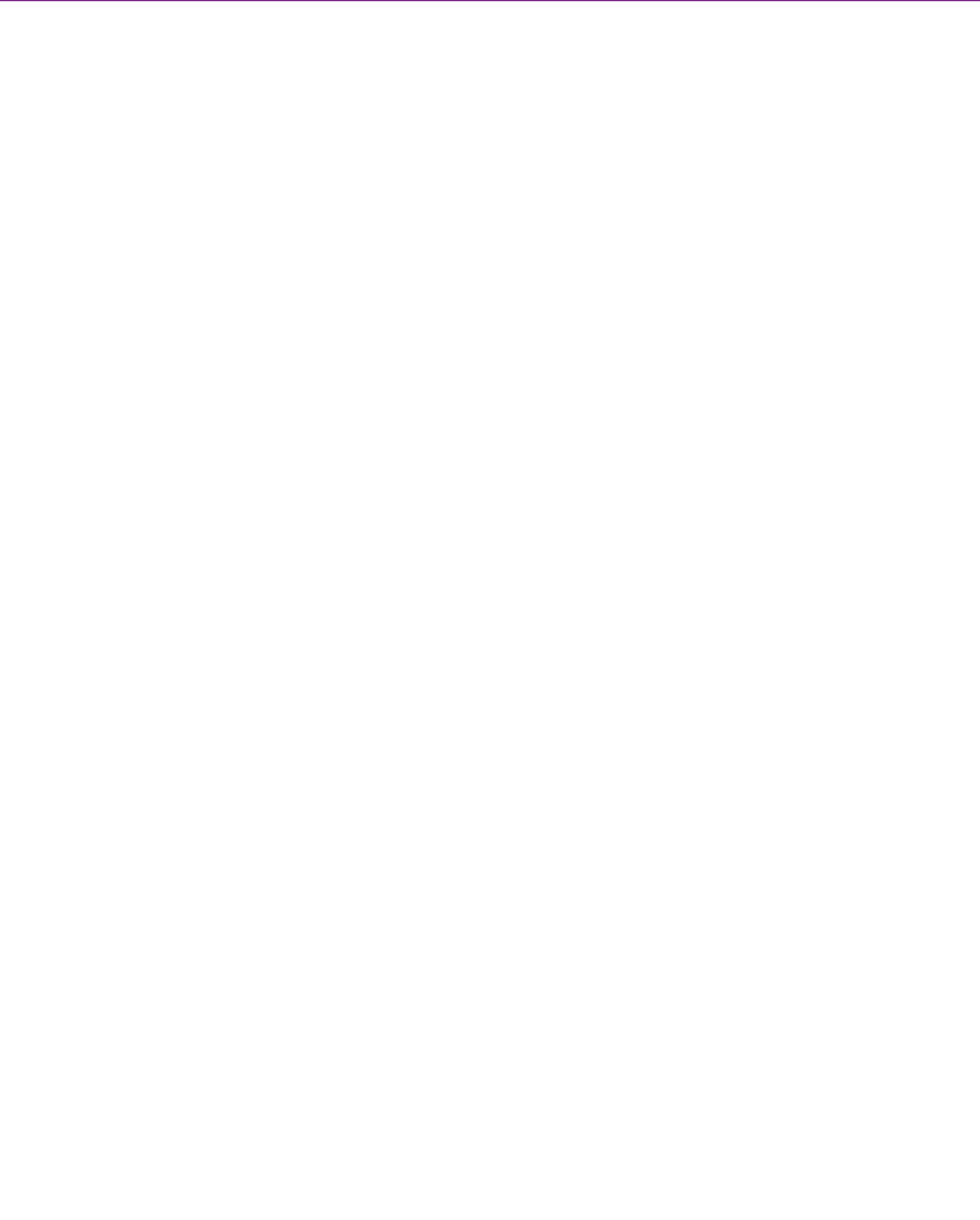


Evaluation Highlight is the 10th in a series that presents findings from the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 (CHIPRA) Quality Demonstration Grant Program. Two States—North Carolina and Pennsylvania—are part of an effort to test the Children's Electronic Health Record (EHR) Format (the Format), which was commissioned by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) and intended to improve the quality of health care for children enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP. The Highlight focuses on the States' activities from 2012 to early 2014.

KEY MESSAGES



- Incorporating the Format requirements into current EHRs was challenging. Pennsylvania health systems prioritized the changes they would try to make to their EHRs, whereas EHR coaches in North Carolina chose to focus on training practices to improve their use of EHRs.



Pennsylvania's health systems worked independently

Pennsylvania gave the five health systems freedom to test the Format as they saw fit and designated one of the children's hospitals to support and loosely organize the work of the other four systems. Accordingly, each system developed its own project objectives and implementation plans

progress and setbacks. The State gave the systems this much leeway because the extent of their experience with EHRs varied widely; some systems had a great deal of experience, while others had very little.

North Carolina used EHR coaches to recruit and guide practices

North Carolina hired, trained, and supervised four EHR coaches whose professional backgrounds ranged from nursing to practice management to health IT. According to project stakeholders, the coaches' interpersonal skills and knowledge of health care have been especially germane to the coaching job.

Each coach recruited practices in an assigned area of the State to test the Format. Coaches oversaw the completion of a survey that asked practices and EHR vendors to compare existing EHRs to the Format. The

between practices and vendors in considering next steps, and they have begun training practices to use EHR functionalities that already meet Format requirements.

Practices and health systems were motivated by a desire for better EHRs

systems in Pennsylvania joined the

CHIPRA quality demonstration either because they were dissatisfied with their EHRs' capacity for supporting high-quality children's health care, because they saw the CHIPRA quality demonstration as an opportunity to improve their EHRs, or both.

Practices and health systems viewed the Format as a tool for learning more about their EHRs, and they used the CHIPRA quality demonstration as a

North Carolina and Pennsylvania used different approaches to engage vendors

North Carolina wants its project not only to improve the health IT industry's understanding of the role of technology in children's health care but also to

in product level. To that end, CHIPRA quality demonstration staff asked EHR vendors to agree to (1) complete and return a survey that compared existing products to the Format, (2) train EHR coaches to use EHR features that practice staff were not familiar with, and (3) indicate whether their products will meet specific Format requirements in the foreseeable future. By spring 2014, four of six targeted vendors

in Carolina project. With the CHIPRA quality demonstration scheduled to end in February 2015, practices that work with the remaining two vendors may not get the training or the EHR enhancements they hoped for.

EHR vendors have no formal role in the Pennsylvania project. Some of the in when they compared the Format to their own EHR systems. Other health

Reaching agreement.



many disagreements with vendors
about whether EHRs met Format
requirements. A Pennsylvania

ICD-10 transition (mandatory changes



inpatient procedures) and achieving certification under the CMS Medicaid EHR Incentive Program (which greatly affects EHR marketability).

Conclusions

As a result of the two States' efforts during the CHIPRA quality demonstration, the Format has been tested by independent primary care

LEARN MORE



- Find out about the 52 projects being implemented in 18 CHIPRA quality demonstration States.
- Get an overview of projects in each of the five grant categories.
- View reports that the national evaluation team and the State-specific evaluation teams have produced on specific evaluation topics and questions.
- Learn more about the national evaluation, including the objectives, evaluation design, and methods.
- Sign up for email updates from the national evaluation team.

Acknowledgments

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