Institute for Medical Innovation (IMI) - an independent, non-profit, academic medical research and policy group, has just released its 2019 Annual MCO Survey report. The Annual MCO mandated length survey is one of the few comprehensive efforts to collect research, longitudinal data on Medicare mandated length of stay (LOS) for inpatient and acute outpatient facilities, and the information, as a result, is essential to national standards that regulate inpatient LOS in the United States. The survey respondents included various stakeholders within the Medicare managed care system. Survey respondents represented 80% of all Medicare managed care organizations (MCOs) in eight critical categories, sampling the variability of the industry in these areas. Survey respondents represented 80% of all members in Medicare managed care organizations.

Who responded to the survey?

- Of the MCOs that completed the survey, 39% were Medicare MCOs with less than 250,000 covered lives, 26% were Medicare MCOs with 250,000 to 999,999 covered lives, and 23% were Medicare MCOs with over one million covered lives.

What are some of the notable findings from the survey?

**Behavioral Health:**

- 84% of Medicare MCOs covered behavioral health services.
- The results show a strong correlation between behavioral and physical health integration when access to data and provider readiness.

**Mental Health:**

Most Medicare MCOs covered behavioral health services in 2019 and plans identified common barriers to behavioral and physical health integration. The most referenced obstacles (69%) were data sharing limitations (e.g., as a result of 62% of plans). To learn more about the results from the survey on behavioral health, click here.

**Social Determinants of Health:**

- 78% of health plans offered targeted social or economic health programs.
- The most common populations targeted by these programs are low-income seniors, individuals with housing insecurity, and clients with substance abuse disorder.

**Child and Adolescent Health:**

- 95% of Medicare MCOs targeted child health services.
- 83% of health plans contracted with the state Medicaid agency to provide coverage for children with special health care needs.

Nearly all health plans (98%) offered targeted child health programs in 2019, and more than 90% partnered with state Medicaid agencies to provide coverage for children with special health care needs. This was the case for 83% of health plans, including those with social services (25%), developing a comprehensive plan of care for children with special health care needs (90%), and helping to arrange appointments (90%). To learn more about the results from the survey on child and adolescent health, click here.

Click here to read and download the newly released 2019 Medicare MCO survey report.

Support for this project is provided by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the Foundation.