Medicaid Reform in Florida: Research Questions

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Principles of Medicaid Reform in Florida

• Patient responsibility and empowerment

• Marketplace decisions

• Bridging public and private coverage

• Sustainable growth rate
Elements of Medicaid Reform in Florida

• More choices for beneficiaries
  • HMOs
  • PSNs
  • Customized benefit packages
  • Opt-out to employer-sponsored plans

• Choice Counseling

• Enhanced Benefit Accounts

• Risk-adjusted rates

• Low-income Pool
Medicaid Reform

• Becomes effective in Broward (Ft. Lauderdale) and Duval (Jacksonville) Counties on July 1, 2006

• Will extend to Nassau, Clay, and Baker Counties after 1 year

• State wide expansion
  • phased-in
  • dependent on legislative approval
MEDICAID REFORM COUNTIES

- Baker
- Nassau
- Duval (Jacksonville)
- Clay
- Broward (Ft. Lauderdale)

- Sparsely Populated Rural County
- Large Urban County
Reform and the Reform Process

• Innovative/untested elements
  • Opt-out
  • Enhanced benefits
  • Aspects of choice counseling

• Rapid ramp-up and implementation
  • Getting staff motivated
  • Management changes
  • Technical issues
    • Program design, software, plan selection process, rates, etc

• Political issues - state elections in November

Consumer Behavior

Organizational and Administrative Challenges
Medicaid Reform Evaluation

• UF contracted by AHCA to conduct five-year evaluation study

• The evaluation study will examine whether or not reform achieves its stated objectives:
  • better health outcomes
  • enrollee satisfaction
  • predictability in cost
Key Questions

- Will there be competition among plans for Medicaid business?
- What will influence health behavior/utilization among low-income populations?
- Will access to care be enhanced/preserved?
- How will the role of the state agency change?
- What will the impact be on:
  - the larger insurance market?
  - providers?
  - employers?
Research Challenges

• Complexity
• Causality
• Reform is a dynamic process
• Idea vs. design vs. implementation
• Data availability
• Interpretation of findings
• Impact may only be realized in the ‘long-term’
Evaluating Medicaid Reform in Florida – Key Reform Elements & Results

### Reform Program Elements

- **More Choices**
  - PSNs
  - HMOs
  - Special Plans
  - ESI Opt-out

- Choice Counseling Process
  - In a Plan or Network
    - Customized Benefit Packages
      - Enhanced Benefit Accounts

- Opt-Out (ESI)

### Reform Program Results

- Enrollee Experiences Satisfaction
  - Disenrollment
    - Health Status; Racial Disparities; Clinical Outcomes
      - Utilization

- Access for Uninsured

- Medicaid Expenditures
  - $\$$
  - $\$$
  - $\$$

Low Income Pool
The Evaluation Team

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Questions?