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

- Sparsely Populated Rural County
- Large Urban County

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