



# Case Study

## IPRO Lends Performance Measurement Expertise to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), to Develop and Test New Pediatric Measures for Front Line Care in Real-World Settings

For more than 25 years, IPRO has worked at the forefront of performance measurement and improvement, combining scientific evidence and practical experiences of states and managed care plans to improve health outcomes.

### Background

The Pediatric Quality Measures Program (PQMP) was formed by AHRQ in response to the Child Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA) legislation of 2009 (CHIPRA, Title IV, Sec. 401), and focuses on developing pediatric measures to improve children's quality of care via cooperative agreement grants with seven PQMP-Centers of Excellence (COE). The



initial phase of work focused on evaluating newly developed PQMP-COE measures and assessing their feasibility and usability at the state, health plan, and provider levels.



In October 2016, AHRQ administered six cooperative agreements funded by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), to support a second phase of PQMP work, in which grantees selected a subset of measures or measure sets drawn from those developed by previous PQMP-COEs. Activities included: field testing, measure refinement, data collection, and reporting on new measures; and using performance data from the measures to define quality improvement goals and test multilevel improvement strategies. The grant funding announcement called for grantees to work with External Quality Review Organizations (EQROs), to advance measure testing and implementation.

In late 2017, AHRQ—in partnership with the CMS—launched the PQMP Learning Collaborative (PQMP-LC) as a central component of the PQMP strategy to collect, synthesize, and disseminate knowledge within and across teams and to other key stakeholders interested in advancing pediatric quality measures to improve care for Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) populations.



### The Approach



**Seattle Children's**  
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In 2016, IPRO was approached by the Seattle Children's Research Institute/ Center of Excellence on Quality of Care Measures, one of six AHRQ PQMP Phase 2 grantees, to provide performance measurement and state Medicaid expertise for the Pediatric Hospital Care Improvement Project (P-HIP). P-HIP engaged IPRO as a Project Advisor to provide clinical and analytic expertise to support the design of measurement specifications and field testing for the DSD3 measure for use on follow-up visits to mental health professional within seven days of discharge for children/adolescents presenting to an Emergency Department (ED) with dangerous self-harm or suicidality.

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Better healthcare,  
realized.

# Case Study

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## Results/Outcomes

IPRO approached the Medicaid Medical Director of Pennsylvania (PA), a client in our Managed Care EQRO program and an advocate for measurement development, to request permission to conduct real-time field testing of the new measure, using a sample of PA's clinical data available in IPRO's data warehouse. IPRO participated in bi-weekly P-HIP project meetings and served as a liaison between the PA Medicaid Program and P-HIP's project team throughout measurement development and testing. IPRO worked closely with the analytic team at RAND, P-HIP's consultant, to review P-HIP's statistical analyses to resolve programming issues and iteratively test and revise measure specifications using PA's data. IPRO's expertise with state Medicaid data and performance measurement resulted in "user-friendly" specifications that can be widely implemented by data programmers working with Medicaid data for the newly development measure.

P-HIP cites the positive experience of working with IPRO as an intermediary to the State and the effectiveness of our approach to refining and testing the new pediatric quality measure during Phase 2 of PQMP, particularly when compared with their experience in Phase I of the initiative. As a result, IPRO was invited to participate in a plenary discussion at the annual AHRQ PQMP-LC meeting in February 2018 to highlight our experience with P-HIP and discuss ways in which grantees can work with EQROs to facilitate measurement development and implementation for PQMP.

Ultimately, through the development of new measures and knowledge gained in understanding the challenges in pediatric performance measurement and improvement efforts, the PQMP plays an important role in providing solutions that will drive high-quality care and improve outcomes for children across the United States.

### References:

CHIPRA: <https://www.ahrq.gov/policymakers/chipra/index.html>

AHRQ PQMP: <https://www.ahrq.gov/pqmp/index.html>

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### IPRO's Performance Measurement Expertise

- Develop, test, implement, calculate and validate performance measures
- Design and implement clinical studies and performance improvement projects
- Develop models and performance measure sets for value-based purchasing programs
- Support ACO reporting of performance measures
- Perform MCO-reported encounter data validation
- Conduct HEDIS® compliance audits as a licensed HEDIS® Compliance Audit™ organization
- Authenticate the results of state-mandated performance measures
- Offer data aggregation and other services to support managed care pay-for-performance (P4P) and value based payment (VBP) programs

### IPRO brings policy ideas to life

IPRO helps clients realize better health through its organizational competencies. We

- Support state and federal government agency problem solving
- Foster consensus among varied stakeholders for quality improvement action
- Evaluate and select most appropriate methodologies to investigate clinical quality problems
- Facilitate collaborative provider education and action
- Harness information technology to drive quality improvement
- Build and apply quality measures
- Collect and analyze data on large scale
- Create tools to assess performance