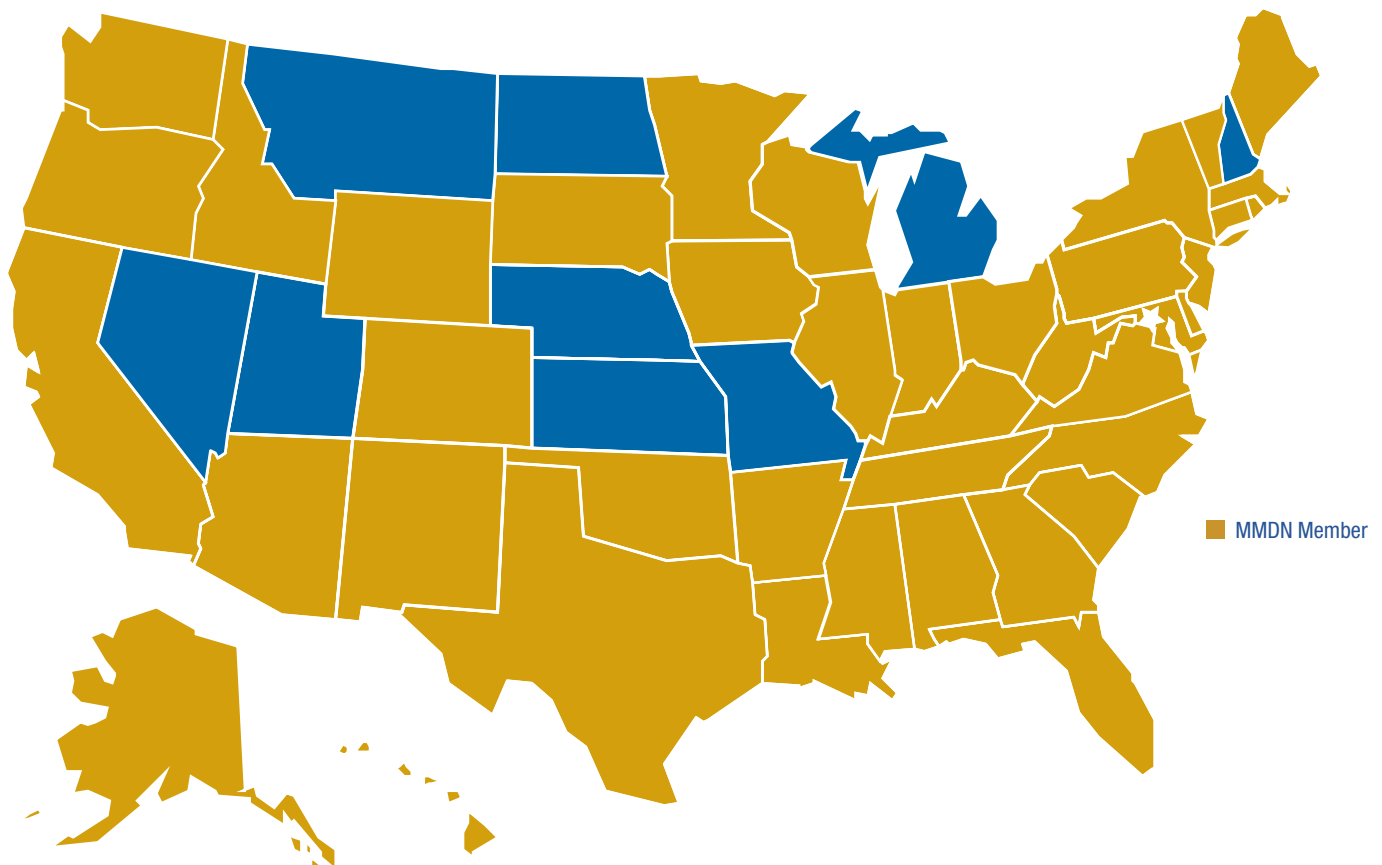


# Medicaid Medical Directors Network

As the professional home of the Medicaid Medical Directors Network (MMDN), AcademyHealth maintains a strategic partnership with more than 40 state Medicaid Medical Directors (MMDs) providing a forum to discuss their most pressing needs and apply the latest evidence to address them, especially related to quality assurance, quality improvement, and coverage decisions.

With support from various funders and partners including the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the MMDN synthesizes and disseminates policy relevant findings to policymakers who tend to need information quickly.



## How the Network Achieves Its Goals

The MMDN focuses on the development and use of evidence-based medicine, measurement and improvement of health care quality, and the redesign of health care delivery systems. AcademyHealth assists with these efforts by:

- Creating and sustaining a vibrant learning community for MMDs and other senior clinical leaders to promote and share best practices for the medical direction of State Medicaid programs through regular conference calls, in-person meetings, and online engagement;
- Facilitating the exchange of the network's expertise and experience to federal agencies and national organizations involved in creating policy or implementing programs; and
- Assisting in the implementation of nationally significant multistate measurement and quality improvement projects, such as cross-state analysis of high-cost, high-need beneficiaries, a MMDN-wide survey of Medicaid's role in measuring and addressing social determinants of health, and, in collaboration with the the State-University Partnership Learning Network (SUPLN), a multistate opioid use disorder treatment evaluation project, and development of the Medicaid Outcomes Distributed Research Network (MODRN).

## Network Highlights

### Cross-State Collaboration and Research Opportunities

#### • **Medicaid Strategies to Implement Comprehensive PrEP Intervention Services:**

AcademyHealth and ChangeLab Solutions (CLS), with support from the CDC, work together to reduce the spread of sexually transmitted diseases among Medicaid beneficiaries, including HIV, and the subsequent consequences for their communities by improving the access to and coverage for recommended and appropriate HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) intervention services, such as sexually transmitted disease (STD) screening and treatment. This project will improve Medicaid availability and delivery of the PrEP intervention package, particularly recommended clinical monitoring and follow-up services such as STD screening and treatment, by assessing and addressing structural, operational, financial, and knowledge barriers regarding PrEP intervention services among providers, payers, and public health leaders.

#### • **Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) Treatment and Outcome Measures Assessment:**

In collaboration with the SUPLN, the MMDN conducted a comprehensive multi-state assessment of OUD treatment quality and outcomes across a subset of state Medicaid programs to inform policy decisions on coverage and payment for evidence-based OUD treatments in Medicaid. This initial project resulted in the creation of the Medicaid Outcomes Distributed Research Network (MODRN), which can be harnessed for future Medicaid policy and program analyses.

#### • **Immunization Barriers in the United States: Targeting Medicaid Partnerships through Community of Practice:**

Funded through a CDC cooperative agreement, AcademyHealth collaborates with the National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP) and the Colorado Children's Immunization Coalition (CCIC), to enhance collaborative immunization efforts across Medicaid, public health agencies and Immunization Information Systems (IIS) divisions to improve immunization rates for children and pregnant women with Medicaid coverage. Through the formation of a Community of Practice (CoP), this project provides technical assistance to five states, Colorado, Hawaii, Kentucky, Montana, New Mexico. Each state's multidisciplinary team includes Medicaid, public health, and Immunization Information System (IIS) representation, and targets specific immunization goals to achieve over the project's three-year span.

### Learning Opportunities: Open Mic Calls & Peer-to-Peer Meetings

The MMDN hosts regular peer-to-peer learning opportunities through Open Mic calls to help members learn about both process-related issues and substantive topics respective MMDs are working on in their state. A few high-level examples of topics the MMDs collaborate on include behavioral health, OUD treatment, rural health, social determinants of health and telehealth.

The Network meets in Washington, D.C., every May and November. Featuring presentations from members, as well as leadership from invited federal agencies, the annual meetings provide a chance for MMDs to share their state's work, engage in interactive peer-to-peer dialogues, and help the Network prioritize issues of interest to members. Substantive meeting topics have included:

- Leveraging Data Sharing in the States
- Assessing CORE Measure Reporting
- Medicaid Transformation: Improving Care Delivery and Containing Costs
- State Efforts to Address the Opioid Crisis
- Social Determinants of Health
- Payment and Delivery System Reform in Medicaid
- Section 1115 Waiver Demonstrations

**To learn more about this network please visit: [academyhealth.org/MMDN](https://academyhealth.org/MMDN)**