

HIE Sustainability: Exploring Outcomes Based Certification

Updated: 8/13/20





Publicly Funded HIE Initiatives

State HIT Fund

- A small tax on private health insurance claims to support electronic exchange of health information
- Previously a special fund, now claims tax revenues are distributed to the General Fund
- Impacted by shifts in private claims

HITECH Act

- Through September 2021, provides states with 90/10 matching funds for HIE development activities – the VHIE, public health registries, ACO IT capacity, etc.
- CMS intends to continue to fund Medicaid-focused HIE activities, likely at a lesser match rate

Outcomes Based Certification

- CMS has recently advised that HIE “modules” may be certified, opening an opportunity for states to receive previously unavailable Operations funds at a 75/25 match rate

Outcomes Based Certification (OBC): Quick Facts

- CMS has offered certification opportunities to Medicaid systems for years; certifying HIEs is a new opportunity, recently introduced
- The OBC process ensures that Medicaid systems projects are focused on achieving outcomes to improve Medicaid programs
- Because the HIE opportunity is new, CMS is asking states to propose their own outcomes measures (i.e., there are no specific metrics we must use)
- Systems must be live for at least 6 months before certification can be awarded
- Federal matching dollars (75/25) are retroactive to system “go live” date
- It is expected that outcomes are designed to measure progress over multiple years

CMS Guidance on Developing Outcomes

IT Milestone

Go live with a system that provides query-based HIE

...Just the *what*

Program Outcome

Medicaid providers are able to use the system for query-based HIE to improve care coordination.

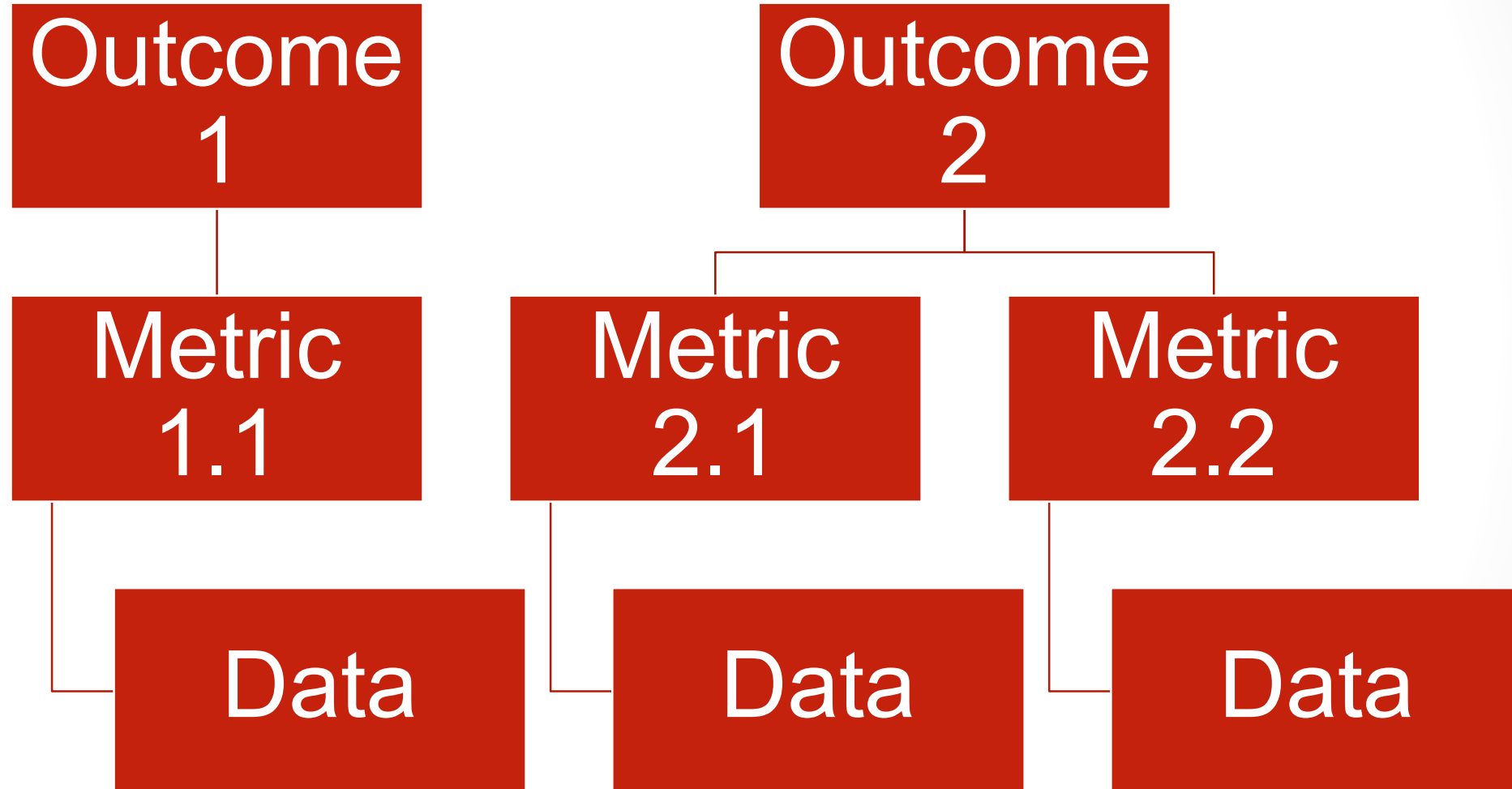
The *what* and the *why*!

Healthcare Outcome

Improve care coordination and reduce duplicative testing

...Just the *why*

Outcomes are Supported by Metrics and Metrics Rely on Data



Outcomes – Metrics – Data

01

Outcomes - discrete and measurable improvements to Medicaid program management, monitoring, or administration, resulting from the delivery of Information Technology (IT) system functionality

02

Metrics - measures that would demonstrate whether a system is meeting an outcome

03

Data - production information for the agreed-upon metrics that states provide to CMS to demonstrate whether a system is meeting the agreed-upon outcomes

Proposal to the Steering Committee

- The foundational VHIE Collaborative Services technology will be up and running in January 2021
 - Note: systems must be live for 6-months to be certified, meaning the soonest Vermont could receive certification is July 2021
- The outcomes selected for the Outcomes Based Certification process could be used to:
 - Aid the Steering Committee in measuring the value and utility of the VHIE over time
 - Demonstrate the importance of the HIE system to Medicaid operations, gaining access to federal Operations funds