



Fact Sheet

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MINNESOTA BRIDGES TO EXCELLENCE: OVERVIEW AND FAST FACTS

Minnesota Bridges to Excellence is a pay-for-performance program that rewards clinics across the state and in border communities for improving care delivery and outcomes for patients with diabetes, vascular disease and depression — three complex and high-cost conditions that affect hundreds of thousands of Minnesotans.

To be eligible for a Minnesota Bridges to Excellence reward, clinics must have a certain percentage of patients at optimal levels of care, or increase their percentage over the previous year, and treat patients who receive their health care benefits from one of the participating purchasers who sponsor the program. Eligibility is based on outcomes in the following areas:

- For **diabetes and vascular disease**, composite measures are used that require a patient to meet all individual measurement components to be considered at optimal care levels.
- The **diabetes measure includes** statin use, levels of blood sugar and blood pressure, non-smoking status, and, for those patients with diabetes who are at risk for cardiovascular disease, daily aspirin use.
- The **vascular disease measure includes** statin use, blood pressure level, non-smoking status, and daily aspirin use.
- And the **depression measurement** targets remission at six months based on improvement in the patient's PHQ-9 score over a six-month time period. The PHQ-9 is an assessment questionnaire completed by patients that results in a numerical score representing the patient's severity of depression.

The top performing medical groups, based on the number of rewards received, demonstrated exceptional performance across multiple clinic locations:

- Allina Health – 20 out of 54 clinics with at least one reward (37 percent of all clinics)
- CentraCare Health – 12 out of 19 clinics with at least one reward (63 percent)
- Entira Health – 11 out of 12 clinics with at least one reward (92 percent)
- Essentia Health – 26 out of 48 clinics with at least one reward (54 percent)
- Fairview Health Services – 19 of 38 clinics with at least one reward (54 percent)
- HealthPartners Clinics – 18 of 30 clinics with at least one reward (60 percent)
- Mayo Health System – 20 of 40 clinics with at least one reward (50 percent)
- Park Nicollet – 22 of 24 clinics with at least one reward (92 percent)
- Sanford Health – 30 of 98 clinics with at least one reward (31 percent)

Minnesota is one of the few states that require public reporting of clinic-level scores for diabetes, vascular disease and depression, in addition to other conditions and procedures.

The Action Group has sponsored the Minnesota Bridges to Excellence program since 2006, using clinical measures developed by Minnesota Community Measurement (MNCM) based on clinical guidelines developed by the Minnesota-based Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement (ICSI). Data is self-reported by medical groups on behalf of their clinics to MNCM, where it is verified, audited and publicly reported.

Financial rewards are made possible by the Minnesota Bridges to Excellence Champions of Change, a group of organizations that sponsor the pay-for-performance program. Champions include Best Buy, Southwest/West Central Service Cooperative, State of Minnesota-State Employee Group Insurance Plan, the Minnesota Department of Human Services, the University of Minnesota, U.S. Bank, and Wells Fargo. These organizations provide health care coverage to over a million people in the state. To learn more about Minnesota Bridges to Excellence and the July 27, 2016 clinic recognition event, visit <http://mnhealthactiongroup.org>.

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About the Minnesota Health Action Group

The Minnesota Health Action Group is a coalition of public and private purchasers whose sole purpose is to represent the collective voice of those who write the checks for health care in Minnesota. Action Group members collaborate with community stakeholders to drive innovations that support high-quality health care, create engaged consumers, and ensure the economic vitality of all Minnesota communities. Based in Bloomington, Minn., the Minnesota Health Action Group was formed in 1988 as the Buyers Health Care Action Group. To learn more, visit www.mnhealthactiongroup.org. Follow on [LinkedIn](#) and Twitter: [@actiongroupmn](#).