

Progress made in comprehensive primary care initiative

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(HealthDay)—Two years into the Comprehensive Primary Care

Initiative, practices have made progress toward transforming delivery of primary care but have not yet shown savings in expenditures, according to a study published online April 13 in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

Stacy Berg Dale, M.P.A., from Mathematica Policy Research in Chicago, and colleagues tracked changes in the [delivery](#) of care by practices participating in the Comprehensive Primary Care Initiative that was started in October 2012. Data were included for 497 [primary care](#) practices in seven regions across the United States.

The researchers found that initiative practices received a median of \$115,000 per clinician in care-management fees during the first two years. Improvements were reported in approaches to the delivery of primary care in areas such as management of high-risk patients and enhanced access to care. There were no significant differences between initiative and comparison practices in terms of changes in average monthly Medicare expenditures per beneficiary, regardless of whether care-management fees were taken into account or not. Relative to comparison practices, initiative practices had a 3 percent reduction in primary care visits (P

"Midway through this four-year intervention, practices participating in the initiative have reported progress in transforming the delivery of primary care," the authors write.

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