

The eValue8 Initiative

In 2003, more than 85 health plans across the country participated in the National Business Coalition on Health's (NBCH's) eValue8 initiative (refer to "eValue8" at <http://www.nbch.org>). Representing a membership of 90 employer-led coalitions across the US comprising 7,000 employers and 34 million employees and their dependents, NBCH provides expertise and resources to promote value based purchasing of health care services. Value based purchasing principles include a commitment to continuous quality improvement, standardized assessment of performance, and the delivery of evidence-based care.

In collaboration with academic institutions, professional organizations, and federal agencies, such as the CDC, NBCH has created and implemented the eValue8 initiative, which is a standardized Request For Information (RFI) process for health services that utilizes common health plan specifications and criteria. Initiated in 2000, eValue8 has gathered information on member communication practices, medical and behavioral health integration, patient access to evidence-based preventive services, plan accreditation, disease management, patient safety and medical error prevention, pharmacy management, and internet capabilities. By consolidating multiple and duplicative RFIs, eValue8 enables health care purchasers (e.g., General Motors) and health plans (e.g., HMOs) to focus on performance management and improvement, thereby reducing time and expense devoted to verifying and analyzing plan-specific information across RFIs.

CDC/EPO/OSAP's participation in the eValue8 initiative is supported by CDC's cooperative agreement (#U38/322446) with the NBCH. For the eValue8 initiative, the primary focus of the CDC/EPO/OSAP analyst is to imbed scientific evidence-based health promotion and disease prevention in the RFI process, including discussion of any relevant health behavior and/or care models. Additional considerations include streamlining this process (such as providing recommendations for improving data quality and enhancing research capability), and understanding how purchasers use and develop eValue8 to improve the value of health care delivery. For the 2004 eValue8 initiative, CDC/EPO/OSAP staffs have analyzed select data from the 2003 initiative, as well as coordinated communication between the NBCH and other centers/institutes/offices (CIOs) within CDC, whereby representatives from the CIOs make recommendations regarding appropriate clinical guidelines, interventions and care, case management, patient self-management, community interventions, and performance measures (e.g., HEDIS, HP2010).

The data collection instrument (or "tool") for the eValue8 Initiative involves several modules that address various health-related topics. The 2004 data collection instrument, for instance, will include separate modules that cover (at least) Plan Profile, Patient Safety, Colorectal Cancer Screening, Alcohol Screening and Treatment, Asthma Management, Pharmaceutical Management, Depression Management, Diabetes, and Cardiovascular Disease Prevention and Risk Factor Management. From a contract between NBCH and IE-Engine, Inc., the eValue8's data collection instruments (i.e., tools) are web-based (i.e., accessible and completed via the Internet). In addition to producing the web-based RFI tools, IE-Engine, Inc. has created Response Reviewer, which a means to view summary and certain individual data collected by the eValue8's tools. However, the functionality of IE-Engine's products are limited; for instance, at this time automatic edits are limited and the production of analytic data sets is complex and time consuming.