The era of health care consumerism has arrived. As consumers share in a greater percentage of health care costs and payers shift to value-based purchasing designs, there is a growing demand among consumers and providers for access to more detailed price and quality information. However, transparency of this information in Arkansas is currently limited. A 2014 report gave Arkansas an "F" grade in an evaluation of each state’s transparency laws and public accessibility to price information. Many surrounding states received equally poor grades. Consequently, Arkansas has an opportunity to be a leader in yet another area of health care transformation. Several states have taken aggressive approaches to improve health care transparency. Regardless of how progressive states are with respect to the availability of price and quality information, many have recognized the need for developing a data infrastructure to support even a basic level of transparency. A number of states have established an all-payer claims database (APCD) to address this need. Arkansas is now on a path to join those states.

WHAT IS AN APCD?

An APCD is a large-scale database that systematically collects health care data from a variety of payer sources. APCD functionality varies from state to state due to state-specific considerations (e.g., technical capacity, funding, and authority to collect, use, and release data), but all share similar goals. APCDs are tools that may be used to increase health care transparency, better understand and address health care cost, quality, and utilization, and support state health system transformation efforts. Fifteen states currently have an APCD, and several more are working to implement one. Twelve of these states mandate data submission.

The APCD project is supported by the Arkansas Insurance Department—Health Insurance Rate Review Division (HIRRD).

APCD BENEFITS

- Help consumers make informed decisions about their health care
- Support research and quality improvement activities
- Allow for peer-to-peer provider comparison
- Help target and assess population health initiatives
- Provide more robust data for health care transformation efforts and evaluation

ACHI is a nonpartisan, independent, health policy center that serves as a catalyst to improve the health of Arkansans.

1401 W Capitol Avenue, Suite 300 • Little Rock, Arkansas 72201 • (501) 526-2244 • www.achi.net
APCD STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Stakeholder engagement is key to optimal APCD utility and long-term sustainability. ACHI capitalizes on the valuable perspective of each stakeholder and encourages stakeholders to provide input and expertise throughout the project. Since August 2014, stakeholders have helped guide APCD development, inclusive of establishing a mission and vision statement and outlining objectives.

VISION
Empower Arkansans to drive, deliver, and seek out value in the health system.

MISSION
Serve as a trusted and timely source of dynamic information to guide meaningful action to improve health, enhance quality, and lower cost.

OBJECTIVES
• Support efforts to improve health care quality
• Support the development cost-containment strategies
• Provide information about health care spending and utilization
• Inform consumers, health insurance carriers, policymakers, and providers in health care decision-making
• Serve as a public good
• Support research

ARKANSAS APCD PROJECT

Recognizing the need for increased health care transparency, the Arkansas Insurance Department, Health Insurance Rate Review Division (HIRRD) applied for and was awarded funds from the Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight to build an APCD. Following a request for proposal process, HIRRD selected the Arkansas Center for Health Improvement (ACHI) to build an APCD for the state. Learning from lessons in other states and from stakeholder input, ACHI is developing an APCD that is intended to serve as a valuable resource for Arkansans. Initial data submission will be on a voluntary basis.

APCD PROJECT STATUS

The Arkansas APCD is currently in development with anticipated production in February 2015. The APCD reporting component is underway with a preliminary design of the first report complete. This report will show the average payment of selected procedures in different areas of the state. Reports will be available through the APCD website, www.arkansasapcd.net, which is currently under construction. The APCD infrastructure is in place to receive and house data. Data will be received into the APCD via an established data collection process utilizing Secure File Transfer Protocol and a web portal. The website will also include information on APCDs, health consumer transparency, and other resources.

RESOURCES
