

Innovative Quality Healthcare Collaborative FAQs

What is the Innovative Quality Healthcare Collaborative's purpose?

The Dallas-Fort Worth Business Group on Health (DFWBGH) has launched the Innovative Quality Healthcare Collaborative (IQHC) to improve healthcare quality, efficiency and patient safety in our community. Leveraging the collective impact of local employers - the ultimate purchasers of Healthcare - to work more closely with healthcare suppliers, so they will deliver evidence-based standards of care on a consistent basis, such that unnecessary tests and surgeries are avoided.

Why does DFWBGH believe this is necessary now and in the DFW market?

The following are the key drivers for the launch of IQHC:

- Healthcare costs in DFW area are 14% above the national average – higher costs do not equate to higher quality care
 - Texas has the highest uninsured rate in the country (19.2%) driven by the lack of coverage affordability
- US Healthcare costs are projected to grow at 5.8% per year to 2025, resulting in ~20% of GDP
- Healthcare waste estimated at 30%, projected at \$1Trillion
- Fifteen-fold increase in the number of complex back surgeries over a five-year period

Has something like this been done anywhere else?

Yes. We will follow a framework that has been successful in other markets, i.e. Seattle and Oregon.

What conditions will IQHC focus on?

The first area of focus will be musculoskeletal conditions, specifically uncomplicated low back pain. The industry has seen a 15-fold increase in the number of complex back surgeries over a five-year period, and the employers' data identified this area as a potentially significant avoidable expense. The process can be replicated to other conditions as well.

What should employers who choose to participate expect as an outcome?

IQHC brings a supply chain management approach to healthcare, so individuals (patients) can be better educated to access quality driven suppliers. Today, many patients access a doctor or hospital based on the close proximity to their home or office, when the reality is that the selection of the right physician can have a material impact of the quality of care being received.

The employers can expect two main outcomes from this effort:

- Create free market competition by rewarding suppliers delivering value-based healthcare
- Lower costs as the ultimate purchasers

What's the timeline for completion?

Here is the estimated timeline for the launch and for the targeted condition:

- During the summer, we introduced to DFWBGH corporate members, Health Plan leadership, and Suppliers (Health Systems and Provider Groups).
- We are launching Clinical Care Workstream (CCW) meetings with 5 Providers in October
- In the CCWs, we will collaborate with the participating suppliers in their re-designed process of care, and we plan to share suppliers' results with the DFWBGH Board end of 1st Quarter of 2017.
- We expect to promote these providers beginning mid-2017, and we expect results to be seen beginning of 2018 as more employees access these suppliers embracing higher quality and patient safety.

Who do I contact for more information or additional questions?

Please contact Donita Doubet, IQHC Program Manager at doubet@dfwbgh.org or 214-382-3036.