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CMS Graduate Nurse Education Demonstration

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CMS Graduate Nurse Education Demonstration

- **\$200 million for 4 years (2012-16) from ACA**
- **Five competitively selected hospitals funded**
- **Tests feasibility, effectiveness, cost of increasing production of APNs through Medicare payments to hospitals for reasonable costs of clinical APN training in range of settings**
- **Eligible APNs are RNs and training is at the graduate degree level**
- **50% of training must be in primary care**

Two Models Have Emerged

Both Successful

- **Single hospital and its primary affiliated nursing school plus community partners**
 - Duke University Hospital
 - Rush University Hospital
- **Regional consortia with multiple nursing schools and hospitals, and many community partners covering a geographic area**
 - Hospital University of Pennsylvania: Greater Philadelphia Region
 - Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center: Texas Gulf Coast Region
 - Scottsdale Healthcare: Arizona

Demonstration is Successful

- **It is feasible for hospitals to distribute APN clinical training funds to multiple schools of nursing and clinical settings including community-based settings**
- **APN enrollments and graduations have more than doubled during the first 2 years**
- **All sites met the requirement for 50% of training in community-based settings**
- **Nurses in training are from diverse backgrounds**
- **It is too early yet to determine first employment setting but clinical precepting organizations including FQHCs are interested in hiring them**
- **Clinical training costs for APNs have been established and suggest good value for investments**

Challenges

- **Increased but insufficient participation by community-based clinical sites to fully exploit APN training capacity of nursing schools.**
- **Incremental funding requirement is difficult to implement and discourages clinical site participation**
- **Exclusion of hospital-sponsored primary care settings in meeting primary care training needs is counterproductive in markets dominated by hospital-sponsored primary care**
- **Initial implementation delays resulted in a truncated demonstration period and substantial unspent appropriated demonstration funds**

Interim Conclusions

- **The familiar model of Medicare funding of hospitals for clinical graduate education of health professionals works for nurses.**
- **Availability of funding to offset clinicians' loss of productivity associated with APN training has been key to nursing schools producing more APN graduates.**
- **Interest is high among clinical settings caring for Medicare beneficiaries in employing APN graduates of the Demonstration.**
- **Cost estimates of APN clinical education derived from the Demonstration show a favorable return on investment.**