Primary Care Spending Data Update

Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner
State of Rhode Island
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Overall, spending on primary care by commercial health insurers was increasing through 2018. Figure 1 shows total spending on primary care in dollars and as a percentage of total medical spending. All data presented in this graph reflect paid claims and non-claims-based payments. In 2018, insurers spent 12.3 cents of every fully insured commercial medical dollar on primary care; this was an increase of over 6 cents from 2008 and the most since the Affordability Standards took effect.

Data Note: Expenditures reflect fully insured commercial payments (paid claims and non-claims-based payments) to Rhode Island primary care providers.
Figure 2 compares the allocation of primary care spending between fee for service (FFS) and non-FFS methods in 2008 and 2018. For the market in 2018, non-FFS investments comprise more than 50% of payments to primary care. The bulk of non-FFS payments represent care management and infrastructure payments to PCMHs and pay for performance incentive payments for quality and cost performance. This coordinated investment reflects market support for comprehensive payment reforms, innovative care delivery models and a patient-centered primary care system.
Figure 3 presents actual primary care spending between 2010 and 2019 (forecasted) compared to a counterfactual scenario in which primary care spending remained at its 2010 proportion of total medical spending (7.1%). The aggregate difference between the two scenarios is over $212 million.
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