

FREEDMAN HEALTHCARE

North Carolina Primary Care Payment Reform Task Force

The Task Force was legislated in 2023 in SL 2023-134 and will support the development of the definition of primary care, an understanding of current spending on primary care services, and an assessment of the current state of primary care in North Carolina. The Task Force will begin with developing a definition of primary care for the work to deliver a report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services and the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Medicaid no later than April 1, 2024. The findings and recommendations in the report will include specific, concrete, and actionable steps to be undertaken by the State and upon which the General Assembly could act.

Background Reading

This document provides background information for upcoming discussions and activities on January 19th, 2024.

Implementing High-Quality Primary Care: Rebuilding the Foundation of Health Care Highlights National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM), 2021

Sets five implementation objectives to make high-quality primary care available to all people living in the United States. Concludes that organizing primary care clinicians, consumer groups, employers, and other stakeholders to assess the recommended objectives will hold the named actors accountable, increase the likelihood of successful implementation, and catalyze a common agenda to achieve high-quality primary care. Full document can be found [here](#).

Investing in Primary Care: Lessons from State-Based Efforts California Health Care Foundation, 2022

Provides a detailed review of 1/3 of US states and several of the nation's largest public and private purchasers primary care investment, payment innovation, and care delivery transformation strategies. Finds that states working to shift more resources to primary care typically use three types of mechanisms and a range of specific tools, often in combination, to achieve this goal:

- Transparency- measurement and reporting
- Contracting- shaping formal agreements
- Regulatory- statutes and regulations

The New England States' All-Payer Report on Primary Care Payments New England States Consortium Systems Organization (NESCO), 2020

Uses standardized data to identify the percentage of all-payer primary care spending relative to overall healthcare spending in each state and provides a framework to evaluate whether the states' investments in primary care reflect the importance and value of primary care in each state. Key findings show that results of primary care payments varied by payer type and across states and highlight that further research is needed to understand how relative payments are correlated with population-level outcomes.