

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ODJFS to Host Summit on Reducing Emergency Department Visits

COLUMBUS, OHIO—The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) Office of Ohio Health Plans, in partnership with the state’s seven Medicaid managed care plans, will host a summit on Oct. 19 to announce the results of an 18-month trial to reduce avoidable emergency department visits by individuals enrolled in Medicaid. The summit will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Franklin County Veterans Memorial, 300 W. Broad St., Columbus.

“The summit will be an opportunity to share our accomplishments with Ohio health care communities, expand these valuable community partnerships, and build support for Medicaid priorities like health homes and accountable care organizations,” said Ohio Medicaid Director John McCarthy.

The initiative – known as IMPROVE, for “Implement Medicaid Programs for the Reduction of Avoidable Visits to the Emergency Department” – was a statewide collaborative that brought together key stakeholders, including health systems, community leaders, health care providers, managed care plans and consumer and family advocates. Regional Steering Committees in five principle cities (Toledo, Cincinnati, Columbus, Akron and Cleveland) achieved significant reductions in avoidable emergency department visits and hospitalizations for almost all targeted patients. The teams will share what they learned at the summit.

“The IMPROVE collaborative is a groundbreaking effort that proactively addresses today’s health care reform challenges and has been gaining national attention,” McCarthy said. “Ohio Medicaid is looking to build upon the successes of IMPROVE as we move forward with more innovative health care models.”

Health care leaders attending the summit will learn how the IMPROVE model benefits high-need and complex-care populations, and will gain insight into how they can implement the model for their patients and in their communities. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Roger Resar, senior fellow for the Institute for Healthcare Improvement and assistant professor of medicine at the Mayo Clinic School of Medicine.

Anyone interested in attending can register online at
<https://www.webregpro.com/coral/register.do?formId=NF1AMQIYPRAM>