Behavioral Health

Improving the quality and lowering the cost of behavioral health services

Mental health and substance use disorders are key health care challenges and are a prominent cause of mortality and morbidity in the United States, particularly among adolescents and young adults. Patient outcomes for these disorders can be significantly impacted by the quality, cost, and accessibility of available care options. Recognizing this, payers and providers are looking to assess and improve quality, include behavioral health services in targeted value-based payment models, and integrate behavioral health services more deliberately into other service-delivery environments.

The RTI Center for Health Care Advancement can help you identify optimal options to address these challenges. We can assess and improve the quality of your behavioral health services and we can design and implement new value-based reimbursement models to improve quality and outcomes and to lower costs.

Our behavioral health experts include mental health professionals, epidemiologists, economists, quality measurement experts, data analysts, and more; this team has collected and analyzed qualitative and quantitative data for decades. We can leverage our extensive experience to help you to define and evaluate quality within your organization and then design and implement targeted assessment and improvement programs, including helping you to develop or select quality measures.
Driving transparency and improvement in addiction treatment: The Shatterproof quality measurement system

Research indicates that people in need of addiction treatment and family members of individuals struggling with addiction are often desperate to find effective treatment but have little credible information to help them sort out the various claims of providers and the wide variety of treatment approaches. To address this problem, RTI International is leading the development of a quality measurement data collection system under contract to Shatterproof. The system will display quality metrics that patients, family members, and payers can use to select high-quality addiction providers that are appropriate to their particular needs. RTI developed methodologies to collect data through provider surveys, Medicaid and private insurance claims data, and patient experience of care surveys and to transform those data into reliable, valid, and useable quality metrics. RTI is also working with Shatterproof to make the information available to consumers, providers, referral sources, and payers on a user-oriented online dashboard. Six states are piloting the project, with the expectation that it will expand nationwide.