

## Consultation Process with SAMHSA

CMS is requiring States to seek consultation from SAMHSA as they develop their approach to health homes prior to submitting their SPAs. CMS and SAMHSA also encourage States to coordinate with their State behavioral health (mental health and substance abuse) authorities regarding efforts they are currently undertaking to integrate primary care and behavioral health.

The consultations are meant to be informal in nature, but will involve a clear process to assure these adequately address the questions and concerns of the State. States should email to [health.homes@SAMHSA.hhs.gov](mailto:health.homes@SAMHSA.hhs.gov) the following:

- A brief overview of the proposed design of the health home;
- The State contact person;
- State timeframes and availability for obtaining the consultation; and
- Responses to the following:
  - What is/are the target chronic condition(s) of your health home proposal?
  - How will individuals be identified and referred to health homes? How will individuals not connected to either the primary care or behavioral health care system be informed and referred to your health home program?
  - Describe **the flow** (visually or by narrative) depicting how clients will move in, through, and out of your health home program.
  - What measures will be used to screen and intervene for behavioral health disorders?
    - Alcohol abuse and/or dependence
    - Drug abuse/dependence
    - Tobacco use/dependence
    - Depression and suicide risk
  - Do you anticipate policy and reimbursement barriers regarding the establishment of health homes for individuals with behavioral health conditions (e.g. same day billing issues)?
  - Other specific areas for the consultation

**SAMHSA will only respond to requests from the State Medicaid Agency (SMA).** However, requests should indicate how the state's relevant behavioral health authority(ies) will be involved in the process. All other formal requests from an individual organization in a particular State will be directed to that State's SMA.

SAMHSA will contact the State within 5 business days of receiving an email in order to schedule the consultation.