



## TCPI Exemplary Practice Performance Summary, June 2019

### Phoenix Children's Medical Group

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*Innovative Use of Care Pathways to Improve Healthcare*

**Phoenix Children's Medical Group (PCMG)** is a multi-specialty pediatric group practice owned by Phoenix Children's that provides primary and specialty care medicine to patients from birth to 21 years of age. Through its primary care clinics, specialty clinics and teaching mission PCMG provides **comprehensive, family centered care** while inspiring excellence in the next generation of pediatric physicians. Through partnership with Maricopa Integrated Health System providers, PCMG providers are active participants in the only pediatric training program in Phoenix, AZ. Many of our residency graduates have become clinical leaders in both the community and the country.

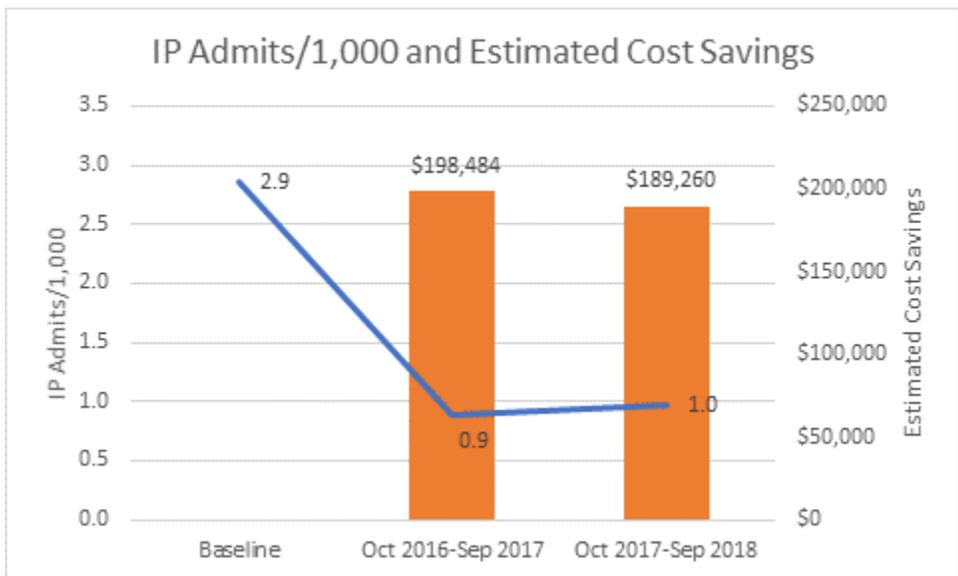
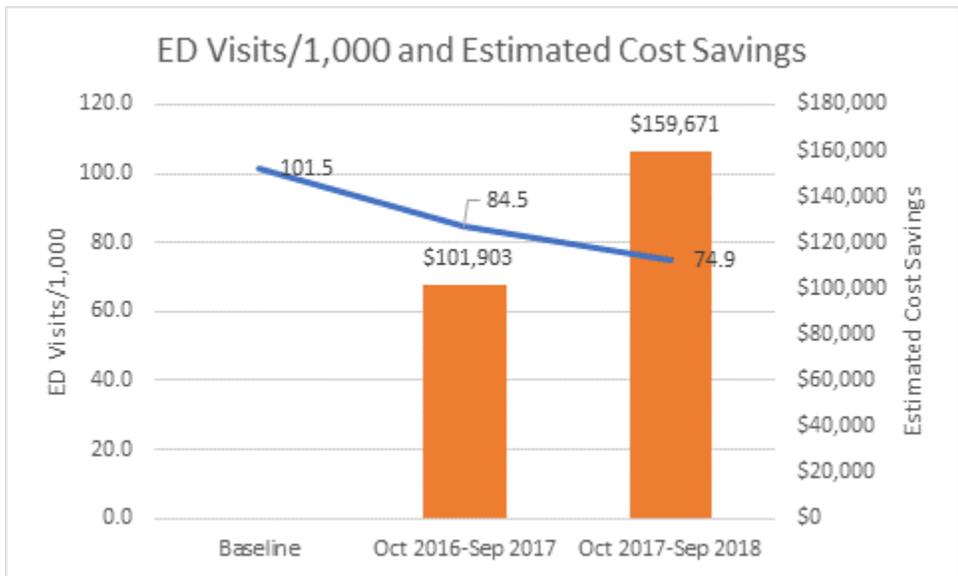
**Phoenix Children's Care Network (PCCN)** is a pediatric-only clinically integrated network in Arizona. All PCMG providers are also part of PCCN. PCCN is committed to providing Arizona children the care they need, when they need it. PCCN is a network of more than 1,000 pediatric primary care and specialty providers throughout greater Phoenix, dedicated to giving Arizona children and their families the care they need to live healthy lives. With its growing membership and first-in-the-nation accreditation, it is recognized as a model for other pediatric clinically integrated networks across the country. PCCN provides participating practitioners with the information they need to successfully manage their populations. Through these efforts, PCCN **improves clinical decision-making** and optimizes health outcomes while utilizing available healthcare resources. Specific focus has occurred on TCPI AIMs 3 & 4 (**improve health outcomes** and **reduce unnecessary hospitalizations**) to reduce the unnecessary hospital and emergency room use and reduce the associated costs.

PCCN assists providers in clinical decision-making by encouraging **evidence-based approaches** to diagnose and manage common and chronic pediatric conditions. "Clinical pathways" equip practitioners with these proven approaches while still allowing them to assess a patient's unique circumstances.

One example is managing functional constipation in pediatric patients. The term "functional constipation" is defined by constipation that does not have a physiological or physical cause. Based on research, constipation affects about 30 percent of children, and of this cohort, 95 percent of cases are functional in nature. Focusing on this, PCMG and PCCN developed the "PCH/PCCN Functional Constipation Pathway" which aimed to improve the diagnosis and management of children with functional constipation in the appropriate care setting; decrease the use of unnecessary imaging studies for the evaluation and management of functional constipation; and decrease the use of in-hospital procedures. Most importantly, the pathway was meant to **empower primary care community pediatricians to diagnose and manage functional constipation in the office setting**.

This pathway had three arms – ED/Urgent Care, Primary Care Provider Office, and Hospital. It was developed in conjunction with a multispecialty group that included ER providers, GI providers, pediatric primary care providers, and hospitalists.

The below graphs have a reportable reduction in inpatient and ED and resulting reductions in cost as reported by Pii.



While the analysis is still ongoing, **preliminary data shows a significant decrease in the use of unnecessary abdominal radiography studies** for both inpatient and ER patients since implementing the Functional Constipation Pathway at Phoenix Children’s.

*Phoenix Children’s Medical Group is an active participant of the Practice Innovation Institute (Pii), Arizona’s Practice Transformation Network.*

*As of October 2018, PCMG has completed all 5 Phases of Transformation.*



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