

QUALIFYING FOR RECOGNITION:
pathways for physicians and practices.



 **BRIDGES**
to Excellence®

Recognizing Quality across the Healthcare System

Health Care Incentives Improvement Institute, Inc.



AT BRIDGES TO EXCELLENCE (BTE), WE WANT ALL TOP-PERFORMING PHYSICIANS AND PRACTICES
to benefit from our recognition programs. So we offer several ways to become BTE-Recognized.

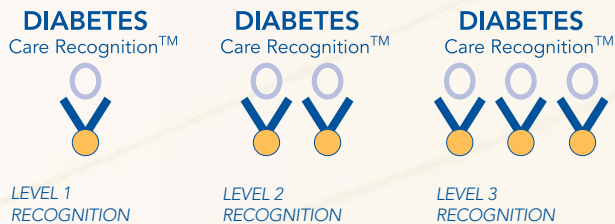
Our programs measure the quality of care delivery, with an emphasis on managing patients with chronic conditions. To earn Recognition, physicians, nurse practitioners and physician assistants must meet certain outcome and process benchmarks. Those who do can earn a range of incentives—which often include substantial cash payouts.

First, decide which programs to participate in.

We sponsor programs for conditions like asthma, cardiac care, diabetes, and hypertension; see the current list at **www.BridgesToExcellence.org**. Your eligibility is based, in part, on how many patients you treat with that condition. In addition, you should check to see whether your contracting health plans offer incentives for particular programs; many plans use our programs in their internal pay-for-performance initiatives.

Then, apply through our network of data intermediaries and performance assessors.

BTE Recognition is based on clinical data from your records, which you will submit to a performance assessment organization (PAO) for scoring. We have partnerships with many leading PAOs, including NCQA, IPRO (New York's Quality Improvement Organization) and the Minnesota Community Measurement (MNCM) collaborative.



Depending on the BTE program, you may have several pathways available.

For example, you can earn BTE Recognition in diabetes through any of the following.

- **NCQA’s Diabetes Recognition Program.** Contact them at www.ncqa.org to begin the process for assessment. If you qualify for recognition in the NCQA diabetes program, you will be recognized in the BTE diabetes program at the corresponding level.
- **IPRO eServices’ direct data submission portal.** Go to pao.ipro.org and follow the steps to register, apply as a single physician or practice, and submit clinical data. Once you download the template file, you will have 90 days to upload your clinical data.
- **The American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) diabetes PIM pathway.** This is available to all internists. A Practice Improvement Module (PIM) is typically completed as part of Maintenance of Certification; the data you gather for that process can be used for BTE Recognition as well. To learn more, contact ABIM at www.abim.org.
- **The automated EMR/Registry System we have established—your most efficient and least costly option.** With this system, you must have EMR data or electronic data in a patient registry. Visit our website to see if your system vendor is set up to submit your data, and view a current list of registries and other vendors we work with, such as:

<input type="checkbox"/> GE (MQIC)	<input type="checkbox"/> CINA
<input type="checkbox"/> BioSignia	<input type="checkbox"/> DocSite
<input type="checkbox"/> NextGen	<input type="checkbox"/> Meridios
<input type="checkbox"/> Allscripts	<input type="checkbox"/> Wellcentive
<input type="checkbox"/> athenahealth	<input type="checkbox"/> eClinicalWorks

If your vendor is not listed on our site, ask them to become BTE-approved. To get started, they can go to www.BridgesToExcellence.org.

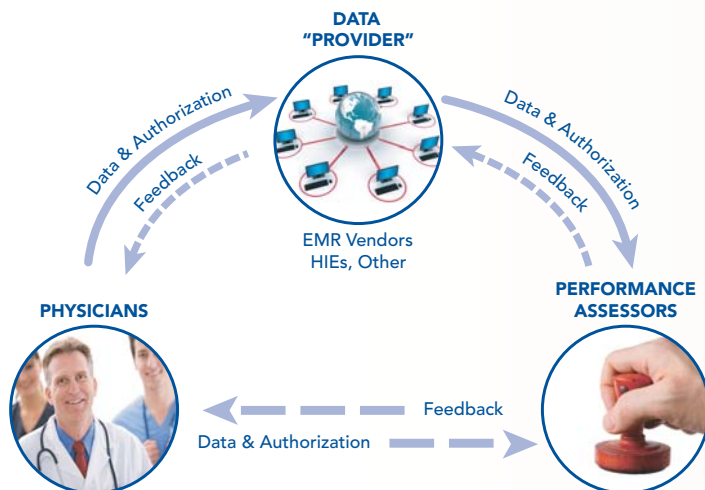
“Our partnerships with BTE and our EMR vendor enable us to maximize the use of automation to capture and report on data that validate the high quality of care we provide to our patients. This demonstrates how we can leverage health information technology to help our physicians get rewarded for high quality care—a stated goal of the federal government.”

Myra Miller
Vice President and Chief Operating Officer
Piedmont Medical Care Corporation
Atlanta, Georgia

Which path is right for you? Here's a quick comparison for Diabetes Care Recognition.

PATHWAY	Quantity of Data Submitted	How data is extracted/ submitted	Cost to Apply (Individual)	Cost to Apply (Groups)
NCQA	Sample of 25 diabetic patients.	Clinicians will abstract data from patient charts and submit to NCQA for review.	\$360	\$360 each with a maximum of \$2,700 for groups of up to a 100. For groups over 100, \$10 surcharge for each physician.
IPRO Portal	Full patient panel of diabetic patients when possible, otherwise sample of 25.	Patient data is manually or electronically extracted into a standard file format and uploaded to the web portal for assessment.	\$95	\$295 per practice of 3 or more clinicians.
ABIM	Sample of 25 diabetic patients.	Direct electronic submission to IPRO through ABIM PIM.	\$95	No group/ practice option.
EMR/Registry System	Full patient panel of diabetic patients.	EMR or registry vendor will extract patient data from clinicians' electronic system and submit to MNMCM or IPRO on their behalf.	No BTE or PAO* fee.	No BTE or PAO* fee.

*The PAO will be either IPRO or MNMCM



Clinicians submitting patient data for performance assessment and recognition are guaranteed confidentiality of their results and control over the process. The numerical score of the assessment is not communicated publicly. All recognized clinicians receive a certificate of recognition.

Keep in mind, the chart on the prior page applies solely to our Diabetes Care Recognition program, and is for illustrative purposes only. Here are your data submission options for other BTE programs.

PATHWAY	Diabetes	Cardiac	Hypertension	CAD	CHF	Asthma	COPD	Spine	POL/ System Use
NCQA	●	●						●	●
IPRO Portal	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●*
ABIM	●		●**						
EMR/Registry System	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●*

* For users of electronic medical records that either (1) have been certified by the Certification Commission for Health Information Technology (CCHIT®), or (2) are certified to meet the federally-defined Meaningful Use criteria.

** Available after Q3 2010

Is it worth the effort? Absolutely.

Once you are recognized, you may be eligible to earn a fixed annual bonus payment for each patient who is a member of a participating employer or health plan. Other rewards may include preferred network tiering and fee schedule increases. Contact your health plans to determine exactly what you are eligible for.

Perhaps most importantly, BTE Recognition proves that you deliver a superior level of patient care. Your achievement will be noted on the HealthGrades consumer portal, plan websites and other public sites, and you'll receive certificates to display in your office. Plus, you'll get completely confidential performance feedback, so you can measure your progress and create lasting improvements. So choose your program and pathway—and start the application process now.

If you need help or more information, contact us at BTEInformation@BridgesToExcellence.org or visit www.BridgesToExcellence.org.



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