

The difference between the independent assessor (IA) and independent external evaluator (IEE)

Roles and responsibilities in the Medicaid Transformation Project

As part of the Medicaid Transformation Project (MTP), Washington State is required to contract with two outside entities: an IA and IEE. These entities are responsible for evaluating the work of MTP and its initiatives. Both will ensure compliance with the state-federal agreements and measure the progress and outcomes of MTP.

The IA

In 2017, Washington State named Myers and Stauffer, LC as the IA for Initiative 1 of MTP: transformation through Accountable Communities of Health (ACHs). The IA's responsibilities include, but are not limited to:


- Assemble an independent review team to:
 - Lead the design and development of a standardized Project Plan review tool.
 - Review and score ACH project plans using the standard Project Plan review tool.
- Lead the assessment of ACH performance on a semi-annual basis and calculate incentive payment adjustments accordingly.
- Provide at-risk project identification, guidance, and monitoring to ACHs and Health Care Authority (HCA).
- Conduct a mid-point assessment of ACH project plan performance.
- Assist HCA in assessing performance as it relates to value-based payment targets, and the attainment and improvement of quality measures.
- Support the development and management of ongoing monitoring and reporting activities.

Through these activities, the IA plays an important role in assessing ACH success. **Note:** the IA does not oversee any other MTP initiative.

The IEE

In August 2018, Health Care Authority (HCA) named Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) as the IEE for MTP. In contrast to the IA's scope of work, the IEE will assess the impacts on and overall performance of MTP and all five initiatives:

- Initiative 1: [transformation through ACHs](#)
- Initiative 2: [Long-term services and supports](#)
- Initiative 3: [Foundational Community Supports](#)

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- Initiative 4: [substance use disorder \(SUD\) IMD waiver](#)¹
 - Initiative 5: [mental health IMD waiver](#)²

The IEE's evaluation activities include both qualitative and quantitative components. They will produce rapid-cycle monitoring reports, a baseline evaluation report (June 2020), an interim evaluation report (December 2020), and a final evaluation report (anticipated May 2022). These are available on the [MTP reports page](#).

The IEE will also measure outcomes against these primary MTP goals:

- Focusing on whole-person care, where a person can access care for their mind, body, and SUD in one system through a network of providers. (This is also called integrated managed care.)
- Improving how we pay for services by moving from a fee-for-service approach to paying for health and value through [value-based purchasing](#).
- Building healthier communities with local and regional partners.
- Implementing projects focused on improving health equity.
- Supporting older adults and family caregivers.
- Helping our most vulnerable population get and keep stable housing and employment.
- Improving access to SUD treatment and treatment facilities.
- Improving access for mental health inpatient care and treatment options.

[View our IEE fact sheet](#) for more information.

[Learn more about MTP.](#)

¹ & ² IMD stands for institution for mental diseases. IMDs are large facilities dedicated to psychiatric care (more than 16 beds where more than 50 percent of the residents are admitted for psychiatric care).