NEW YORK SIM UPDATES:
- Materials from the October 7th Integrated Care Workgroup meeting have been posted online.
- Materials from the September 23rd HIT Workgroup meeting have been posted online.
- The next Workforce Workgroup meeting is scheduled for November 21, 2016.
- The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has issued a Request for Information regarding concepts related to state-based payment and delivery system reform initiatives. The RFI is available here, and open for public comment until October 28th.
- The New York Academy of Medicine was awarded a contract to conduct a state-led evaluation of New York’s SIM.

IN THE NEWS:
- The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Issue Final Rule with Comment Period for the Quality Payment Program
  The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued its final rule with a 60-day comment period for the Quality Payment Program (QPP), the program established by the Medicare and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA). The final rule includes several options for compliance with the QPP. The CMS identified four main options for providers to “pick their pace” for performance year 2017, slated to begin on January 1, 2017. These options include: 1) Test the QPP by submitting “at least some” data during the performance year; 2) Participate for part of the performance year; 3) Participate for all of the performance year; or, 4) Participate in an Advanced Alternative Payment Model for the performance year. In addition to the final rule, the CMS launched a comprehensive website that provides information about the QPP, access to the various final measures for the program, and education and tools for compliance and success. The full final rule with comment period can be found here; the executive summary of the rule can be found here. Further information and resources can be found at the QPP website: qpp.cms.gov.

- Department of Health and Human Services Awards IT Enhancement Funds to New York Health Centers
  The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced that it had awarded over $87 million to health centers across the nation to support health information technology enhancements. The awards are intended to help health centers transition to value-based payment models of care, improve information-sharing efforts, and increase engagement in delivery system transformation. Of the $87 million, just over $5 million will go to 63 health centers in New York. Information on the award is available here; a list of New York health centers receiving funds is available here.

- American Academy of Pediatrics Releases BluePrint for Children
  The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recently released the BluePrint for Children, making policy recommendations for improving the health of children and their communities. Among the AAP’s recommendations is to improve financing for high-quality, team-based medical and mental health care delivered in a medical home. The AAP additionally recommends policy priorities for supporting secure and strong families and safe communities. The full BluePrint for Children is available here.

- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Release First Evaluation Report on Bundled Payment for Care Improvement Models
  CMS’ Bundled Payment for Care Improvement (BPCI) models are intended to test whether linking the payments for all providers involved in delivering an episode of care can reduce Medicare costs while maintaining or improving quality of care. The BPCI initiative has been voluntary for providers; providers and organizations began applying to participate in August 2011. This second of five annual reports synthesizes the findings from numerous evaluation and monitoring activities, and reflects participants’ experiences in BPCI through June of 2015. The full report is available here; general information on the BPCI program is available here.