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Tool for assessing health care payment reform readiness to be tested in Columbus

COLUMBUS — An independent organization working on behalf of some of the nation's largest employers has selected Columbus as one of three cities to pilot test a new market assessment tool aimed at assisting efforts to improve the health care payment system.

Catalyst for Payment Reform, or CPR, which represents large health care purchasers such as The Boeing Company, The Dow Chemical Company, GE and Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., announced last week that it will be teaming with the Health Policy Institute of Ohio to field test its Market Assessment Tool in Columbus. The Tool is designed to help health care stakeholders inventory market characteristics they need to consider before designing and implementing improvements to the health care payment system.

The other markets selected to participate in the field test are Memphis, Tenn. and Long Beach, Calif.

CPR is planning to test the assessment tool and refine it with feedback from pilot participants, in preparation for an expected broad public release in early 2012.

Upon public release, HPIO will consider utilizing the tool to conduct assessments in other regions of the state to better inform payment reform strategies in Ohio.

The Health Policy Institute of Ohio recently adopted a three-year strategic plan that identifies four strategic objectives for informing health policy development. One of those objectives is **aligning public and private payments with better health quality outcomes for all Ohioans**.

As part of its work to improve the health payment system, HPIO is organizing a diverse group of stakeholders into a Payment Reform Collaborative that will explore and advise policymakers on public and private payment reform strategies with the potential to align public and private payment for health care with optimal quality.

To learn more about the Health Policy Institute of Ohio, please visit www.hpio.net, like us on [facebook](#) or follow us on [twitter](#).