

Home Community Based Services Rate Determination

Public Consulting Group (PCG), and
Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

August 2024

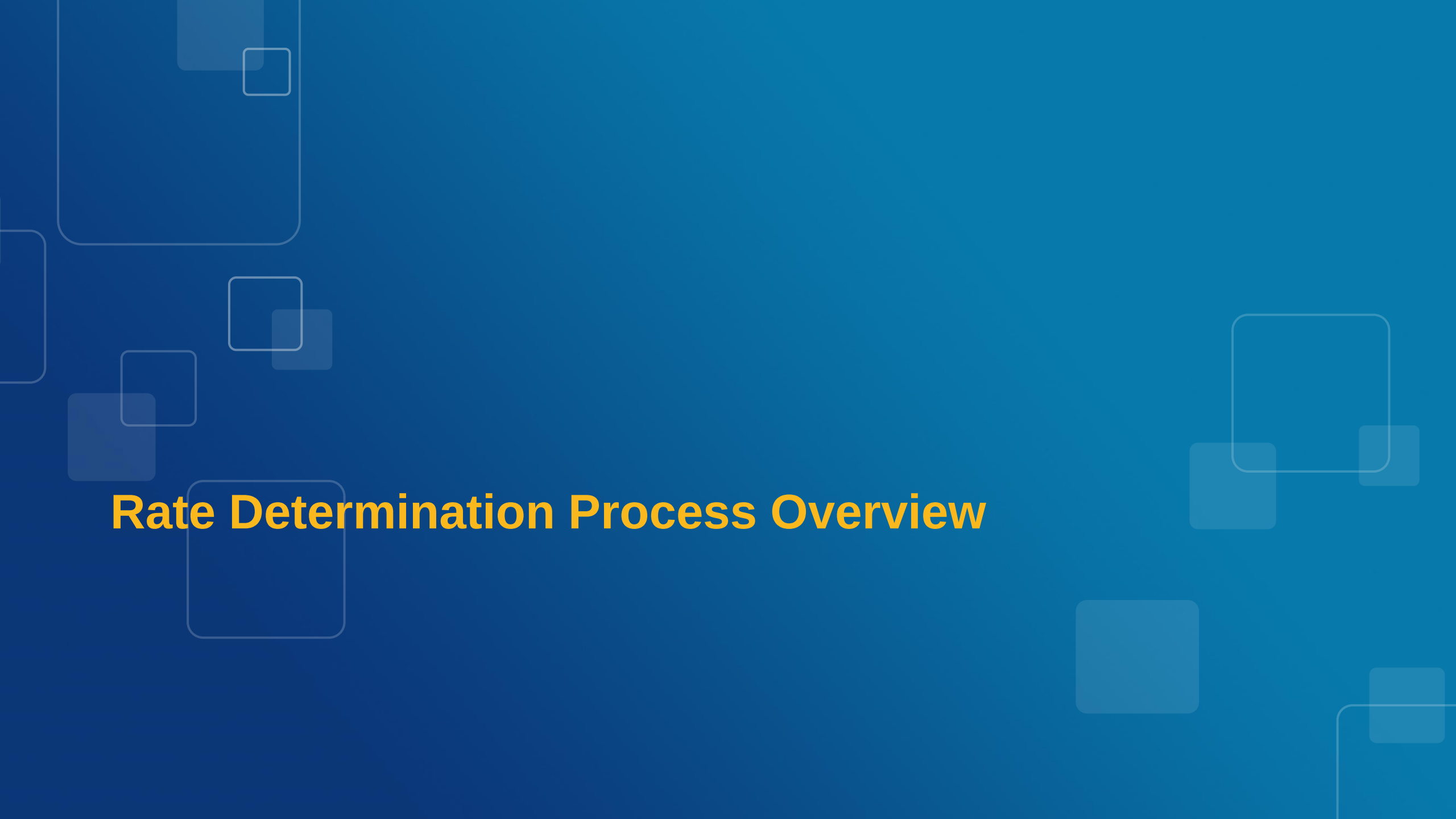
Agenda

- Introductions
- Rate Determination Process Overview
- HCBS Rate Determination Overview & Methods
- Interested Parties Engagement and Comment
- Next Steps



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Introductions

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Rate Determination Process Overview

Rate Reform Process

Stand-alone section of Maine law (22 M.R.S. § 3173-J) enacted in 2022, codifying process and principles for MaineCare Rate System:

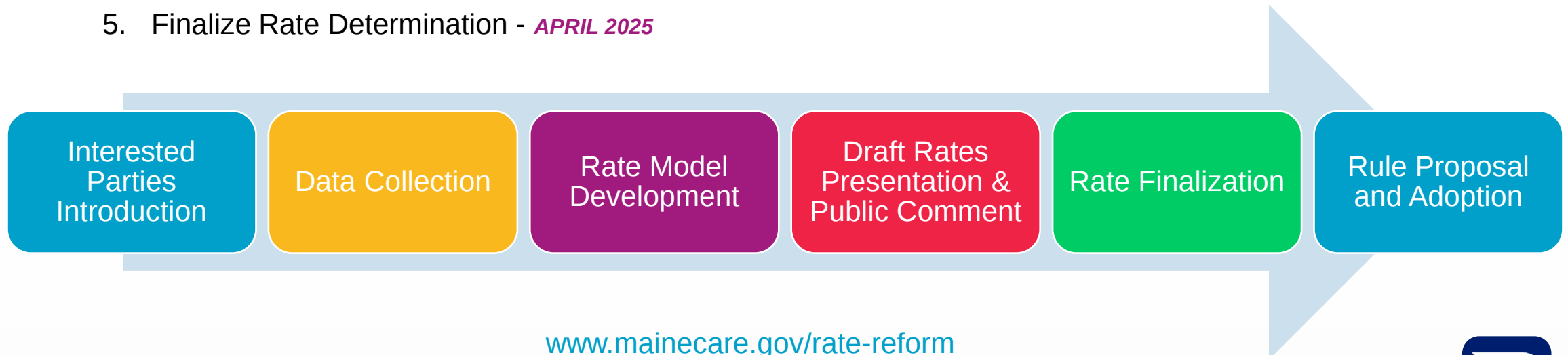
- 1** Sets schedule for regular rate review and adjustment
 - Annual updates to rates benchmarked off Medicare or other payers
 - For non-benchmarked rates:
 - Department annually develops schedule of rate determination for coming year
 - Rates not being re-determined per schedule receive annual cost of living adjustments
- 2** Ensures review of relevant state and national data to inform rate amounts and payment models
- 3** Formalizes clear and transparent process for rate determination
 - Public notice > public presentation > public comments on draft rates > Department's public response to comments
 - Establishes rate system subcommittee of MaineCare Advisory Committee
- 4** Technical Advisory Panel
 - Advises on related technical matters as appropriate
 - Reviews annual schedule for rate determination



22 M.R.S. § 3173-J Process

Steps for this rate determination process:

1. Kickoff with Interested Parties - *TODAY*
2. Public Forums - *COMMENCING SEPTEMBER 2024*
3. Official written comment period
4. Department review and response to comments
5. Finalize Rate Determination - *APRIL 2025*



www.maine.gov/rate-reform

Project Overview & Goals

In conjunction with DHHS, following Maine Legislatures established requirements for rate studies in ***Title 22, §3173-J***, PCG will be initiating a comprehensive rate system analysis for the following **Home and Community Based Services (HCBS)** services:

- Assistive Technology Devices and Services;
- Care Coordination;
- Clinical Services;
- Supportive Skills Building;
- Therapeutic Interventions; and
- Personal Support Services.

This project upholds the commitment to ensuring

- ✓ **regular reviews of rates** within the State of Maine,
- ✓ while **maintaining reasonable payment rates**
- ✓ which support MaineCare's provider network and **ensure access to Medicaid services.**

Under MaineCare Sections 12, 18, 19, 20, 21, 29, 40, 96 & 102.

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HCBS Rate Determination Overview & Methods

Project Background

In May 2024, Maine Department of Health and Human Services selected **Public Consulting Group (PCG)** as a partner to lead and conduct a rate determination for

- **Home Community Based Services (HCBS)** for **Assistive Technology Devices and Services, Care Coordination, Supportive Skills Building, Therapeutic Interventions and Personal Support Services** covered by
- **Sections 12, 18, 19, 20, 21, 29, 40, 96, & 102** of the MaineCare Benefits Manual.

PCG is a leading public sector management consulting and operations improvement firm that partners with health, education, and human services agencies to improve lives.

PCG operates and holds contracts in all 50 states, with prior experience in Maine, and is currently involved in another project focused on Neurobehavioral Health Services in the state.



Project Overview

PCG has extensive rate determination experience across the country

Our approach will be:



Collaborative with frequent touchpoints with interested parties through all project phases



Transparent with well-documented assumptions and regular status updates



Data-Driven enabling evidence-based recommendations, including national research and benchmarking



Tailored to address the needs of Maine residents receiving HCBS, including operational considerations

Project Goals



Develop and document appropriate benchmarking, service definitions, rates and coding alignment



Engage closely with interested parties throughout the project life cycle



Demonstrate the impact of changes to rates or service definitions



Ensure alignment to state and federal reimbursement requirements

Project Activities: Overview

Code and Rate Analysis

- ***Of all included services***
- Identify comprehensive list of codes and services
- Assess current services and rates
- Identify appropriate benchmarks including Medicare

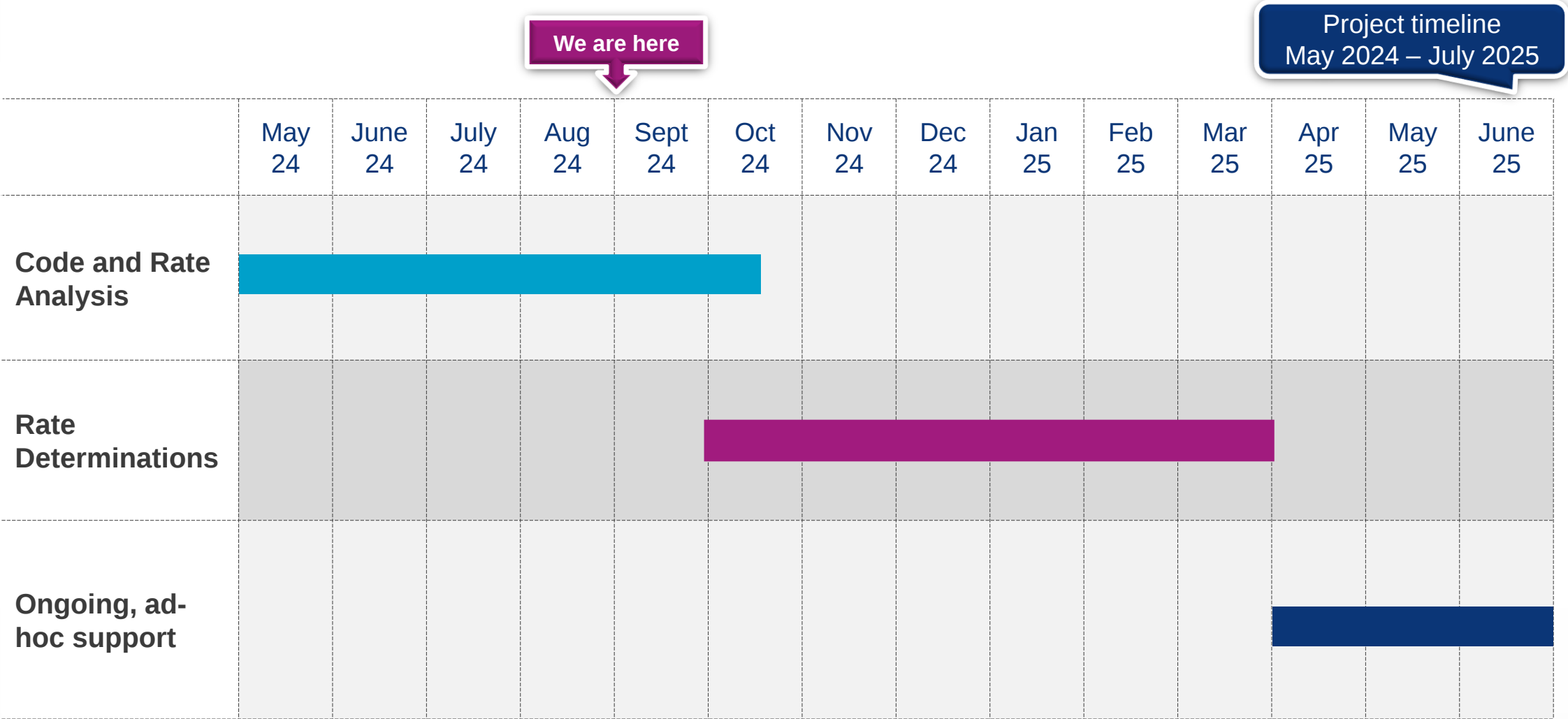
Rate Determinations

- ***For services without recommended benchmark***
- Collect and analyze provider cost data
- Confirm service model requirements and assumptions
- Calculate, document and present rate recommendations
- Calculate impact of rate recommendations



Engagement with Interested Parties

Key Dates & Timeline



Progress To Date

Code and Rate Analysis

Comprehensive list
of included codes
can be found at
MaineCares Rate
Reform website

MaineCare data
analysis

Research and
comparison against
Medicare, peer-
states, commercial
rates

Assessment of
appropriate
benchmarks

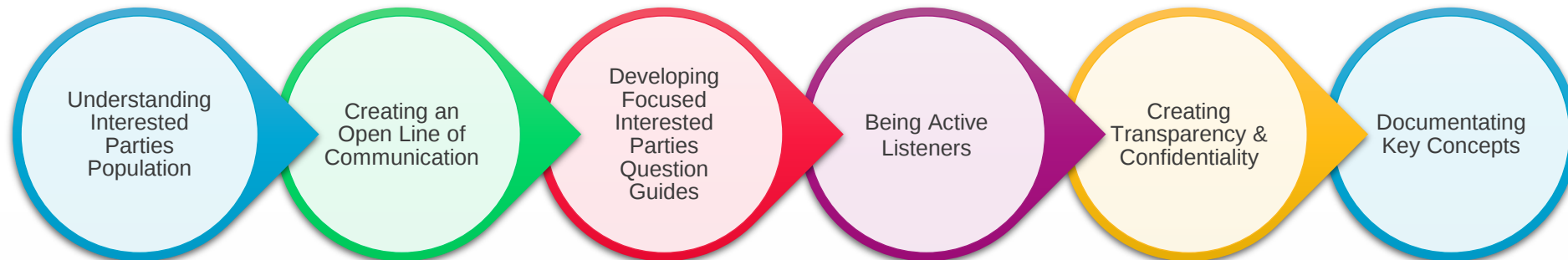
Introductory call with
interested parties

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Interest Parties Engagement & Comments

Interested Parties Engagement Goals

- ✓ PCG understands the importance of **continuous and transparent engagements** with interested parties to ensure all voices are heard during the rate evaluation process.
- ✓ PCG is committed to working closely with interested parties to receive **comments and input** related to financial policy and reimbursement rates for the duration of the project.
- ✓ PCG will **demonstrate key values** during the engagement process with interested parties including:



Interested Parties Engagement Opportunities & Communication

Throughout the project PCG will plan, host and encourage participation with interested parties, through various engagement opportunities including:

- ▶ Key Informant Interviews
- ▶ Collection of written feedback via survey
- ▶ Workgroups/Focus Groups
- ▶ Direct outreach, as necessary

Announcements regarding engagement opportunities for interested parties including surveys, workgroups, or focus groups will be shared via Maine's Department of Health and Human Services email listserv.

Upcoming Engagement Section Sessions for Interested Parties

Section	Date and Time
Assistive Technology Devices and Services	September 4th 11am- 12pm EST
Care Coordination	September 6th 9am- 10am EST
Clinical Nursing Services	September 11th 11am- 12pm EST
Clinical Therapy Services	September 13th 9:30am- 10:30am EST
Supportive Skill Building	September 25th 11am- 12pm EST
Therapeutic Interventions	September 27th 9:30am-10:30am EST
Personal Support Services	October 7th 3:00pm-4:00pm EST
Rehabilitative Services	October 9th 10:30am-11:30am EST

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Next Steps

Next Steps



Conduct engagement sessions with interested parties



Provider data collection and analysis



Begin rate determination process



Continued research, data analysis and benchmarking to inform rate determinations

Project Email for Communication, Questions and Comments



Dedicated Maine HCBS project email allowing anyone to communicate directly with project staff.

MaineHCBSCandN@pcgus.com



Solutions that Matter