2.2 Questions and Hypotheses

Q1. Does the demonstration increase access to SUD treatment services?
   
   H1.a. The demonstration will increase the number of SUD providers enrolled in Medicaid and qualified to deliver SUD services.
   
   H1.b. The demonstration will increase the number of providers at each of the levels of care.
   
   H1.c. The demonstration will decrease the average driving distance between patients and providers.
   
   H1.d. The demonstration will increase the perceived access to care of available SUD treatment services among beneficiaries.

Q2. Does the demonstration increase utilization of SUD treatment by Medicaid enrollees with SUD?
   
   H2.a. The demonstration will reduce the time between initial diagnosis and treatment.
   
   H2.b. The demonstration will increase the rate of MAT usage.

Q3. Does the demonstration improve coordination and management of care?
   
   H3.a. The demonstration will increase the proportion of Medicaid beneficiaries receiving Targeted Case Management.
   
   H3.b. The demonstration will increase the proportion of ED visits which have a timely follow up visit with a corresponding primary diagnosis of SUD.
   
   H3.c. The demonstration will decrease high risk prescribing practices (i.e., high dose, multiple prescribers and pharmacies, concurrent use of benzodiazepines).

Q4. Does the demonstration reduce the utilization of ED and IP hospital settings for OUD and other SUD treatment?
   
   H4.a. The demonstration will decrease the rate of preventable ED and IP visits within the beneficiary population for SUD.
   
   H4.b. The demonstration will decrease the rate of preventable or medically inappropriate readmissions to ED and IP settings.

Q5. Does the demonstration improve adherence to SUD treatment?
   
   H5.a. The demonstration will increase continuity of pharmaceutical care.

Q6. Do beneficiaries receiving SUD services experience an improved quality of care?
   
   H6.a. The demonstration will increase the percentage of beneficiaries with SUD who receive screening and care for co-morbid conditions.
   
   H6.b. The demonstration will increase identification, initiation, and engagement in SUD treatment.

Q7. Does the demonstration reduce rates of opioid-related overdose deaths?
   
   H7.a. The demonstration will decrease the rate of overdose deaths due to opioids.

Q8. How do costs related to the demonstration waiver change throughout the pre- and post-demonstration periods?