Measure Management and You

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Qualified Clinical Data Registry (QCDR) Overview

A Qualified Clinical Data Registry (QCDR) is a Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) approved vendor that is in the business of improving health care quality. These organizations may include specialty societies, regional health collaboratives, large health systems or software vendors working in collaboration with one of these medical entities. One of the ways QCDRs can help to improve the quality of care patients receive is by collecting clinical data from clinicians and reporting this data to CMS on their behalf for purposes of MIPS. QCDR submission differs from qualified registry submission in that QCDRs can submit non-MIPS measures, called QCDR measures, as well as MIPS quality measures. They may also submit data for the Promoting Interoperability and Improvement Activities on behalf of the clinician(s).

QCDRs can develop and/or submit measures to CMS for CMS approval and these measures are called QCDR measures. QCDR measures are to be developed in accordance with the Blueprint, but do not need to go through the Pre-Rulemaking process.

Annually, CMS puts out a call for QCDR self-nomination. The 2019 Self-Nomination Toolkit for QCDRs and qualified registries is now available. QCDRs must self-nominate annually, even if previously approved.

There are several benefits of using a QCDR. For example, because many QCDRs are specialty-based, QCDR measures may be more meaningful and applicable to the eligible clinician. QCDRs streamline data collection and manage the submission of three MIPS categories to CMS. Eligible clinicians may be able to earn bonus credit in multiple performance categories. The clinicians receive benchmark information so they can see how they are performing on comparison with their peers. QCDRs are required to provide quarterly feedback reports to their participating clinicians, which provides the clinicians the opportunity to make more rapid changes to improve quality of care. For more information about QCDRs, see the full article on the Measures Management System (MMS) website.

QCRDs

QCDRs are encouraged to share and/or harmonize similar measures unless there is a compelling reason not to do so. Harmonization between QCDRs provides clinicians with a larger cohort for comparison for performance scoring and benchmarking.

Special Announcements

Updated CMS Measures Inventory Tool (CMIT)

We are excited to share the latest update for the CMS Measures Inventory Tool (CMIT)! This update reflects measure information from the proposed and final Federal Rules for 20 programs published between June 1 through August 20, 2018. The CMS Measures Inventory currently includes 2,179 unique measures from 37 programs/initiatives and spans the measurement lifecycle including Measures under Development (MUD), those that have been published on a Measures under Consideration (MUC) List, and measures that are currently used in or have been removed/retired from a program.

A few of CMIT's new features and functions:

- Lists similar measures for each measure in the inventory
- An improved filtering interface that will help you refine your search for relevant measures
- Shows "Upcoming Status Changes" for measures in specific programs
- Assists you in identifying gaps via a measure comparison tool
- Application of common synonyms when searching; for example, a search for "juvenile" will also find measures that mention "adolescents"
- The ability to view and export tables that count measures by category in the Measure Summary view; for example, by program and current status or by program and meaningful measure area

Visit cmit.cms.gov today to check it out! We always welcome feedback on the CMS Measures Inventory – for any questions or comments, please contact MMSSupport@battelle.org.

Cooperative Agreements Announcement

On September 21, 2018, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services selected seven applicants to receive cooperative agreements through the "Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA) Funding Opportunity: Measure Development for the Quality Payment Program." The awardees and the measure(s) they are developing, improving, updating, or expanding can be found at https://go.cms.gov/1Gb6GDL. Thank you to the applicants that applied. We look forward to continuing to engage with the healthcare community to improve the quality and value of healthcare delivered to our beneficiaries.

Upcoming Events

All times shown are Eastern Time zone

- The Measure Authoring Tool and Bonnie Training
  - Register for the training session on October 11, 2018 at 11:00 AM here
  - Register for the training session on October 15, 2018 at 2:00 PM here
- Leveraging Patient-Centered Clinical Decision Support: Addressing the National Opioid Crisis and Beyond on October 15, 2018
  - Register for event here
- Patient Relationship Categories and Codes Webcast on October 17, 2018 at 1:30-3:00 PM
  - Register for event here
- Physician Compare: Preview Period and Public Reporting Webcast on October 30, 2018 at 1:30-3:00 PM
  - Register for event here
- Cooking with CQL: or How to Incorporate CQL into HQMF for eCQMs on October 25, 2018 at 4:00 PM
  - Register for event here

Upcoming Opportunities

Opportunities for Public Comment on quality measures

Currently there are no open public comments. **Please check the CMS Quality Measures Public Comment Web Page for current Public Comment announcements and summary reports.**

Opportunities to participate in a Technical Expert Panel (TEP)
- Development of Two Outpatient Outcome Measures for the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS)
  - o The Clinician Committee nomination period opened on September 25, 2018 and closes on October 10, 2018.
- Impact Assessment of CMS Quality and Efficiency Measures
  - o The TEP nomination period opened on September 27, 2018 and closes on November 2, 2018.
- MACRA Episode-Based Cost Measures – Call for Clinical Subcommittee
  - o The TEP nomination period closed on March 20th, but nominations are being accepted on a continuous basis.

Please check the CMS Quality Measures Call for TEP Web Page for current TEP membership lists and meeting summaries.

New to the Listserv?
New to the listserv or missed a month? Find all our announcements as well as printer-friendly versions of past newsletters here.

Please send comments and suggestions to MMSSupport@battelle.org