

February 16, 2016

Core Quality Measures Collaborative announcement:

Today, the Core Quality Measures Collaborative is announcing agreement on core measure sets for select areas of practice – Accountable Care Organizations (ACO)/Patient-Centered Medical Homes (PCMH)/Primary Care, Cardiology, Gastroenterology, HIV/Hepatitis C, Medical Oncology, Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Orthopedics. This collaborative effort will guide us as we move toward reduced variability in measure selection, specifications, and implementation – making quality measurement more useful and meaningful for consumers, employers, clinicians, and public and private payers. It also sets a model for future work on performance measurement alignment in these and other areas.

With input and participation from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), health plans, the National Quality Forum (NQF), primary care and other physician specialty organizations, the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA), in addition to consumers and employers, the Collaborative has been working to create consistency and alignment across measures being used by both public and private payers. The Collaborative seeks to promote measures that are evidence-based and generate valuable information for quality improvement, decision-making, and value-based payment and purchasing. The core measure sets are designed to be meaningful to patients and consumers, as well as physicians, while improving quality and enhancing effectiveness.

The payers participating in the Collaborative represent approximately 70 percent of the combined population of health plan enrollees and fee-for-service Medicare beneficiaries in the United States.¹ Physician and professional organizations participating and providing valuable input to this initial initiative on what should be measured and reported include:

- American Academy of Family Physicians
- American College of Cardiology
- American College of Physicians
- CAPG
- American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons
- American Gastroenterological Association
- American Heart Association
- American Medical Association
- American Society of Clinical Oncology
- Council of Medical Specialty Societies
- HIV Medicine Association
- Infectious Diseases Society of America

In addition, physician specialty organizations such as the American Academy of Pediatrics are participating in the Collaborative and working on a core set of measures for pediatrics.

We view the upcoming year as a transitional period, as we begin adoption and harmonization of the measures. The Collaborative will monitor the ongoing use of these measures to enable modifications of measure sets, as needed, based on lessons learned, including minimizing unintended consequences, and through selection of new measures as better measures become available. This is a major step forward for alignment of quality measures between public and private payers and provides a framework upon which future efforts can be based.

For additional details on this effort please refer to the FAQ document.

¹ <http://healthaffairs.org/blog/2015/06/23/the-core-quality-measures-collaborative-a-rationale-and-framework-for-public-private-quality-measure-alignment/>