Overview

• Technical Specifications for ACO Measures - “ACO HEDIS”

• What are the differences between ACO HEDIS and…
  – Health plan HEDIS?
  – CMS ACO measures?

• ACO Benchmarking Pilot
Why?

• NCQA’s ACO Accreditation will move to performance-based scoring over time
• HEDIS is broadly used
  – Defined specifications that are updated
  – Technical assistance
  – Audit
  – National and regional benchmarks
• Current versions don’t address ACOs
Principles for ACO Measurement

- Align with health plan and physician HEDIS
- Leverage NCQA’s experience with Integrated Healthcare Association P4P
- Align with CMS ACO measures where possible
- Meet ACOs where they are in terms of ability to measure and allow for evolution
- Encourage consistency across ACOs to achieve future benchmarking
Development of ACO HEDIS

- **HEDIS 2013 Technical Specifications for ACO Measures**
  - Overview
  - General Guidelines
    - Defining the population for measurement
    - Reporting to NCQA
    - Data collection methods, sampling, etc...
  - Measure specifications
    - 23 clinical quality measures
    - 5 efficiency/overuse/utilization measures
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clinical Quality</th>
<th>Efficiency/Overuse/Utilization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Adult BMI Assessment</td>
<td>• Avoidance of Antibiotic Treatment for Adults With Acute Bronchitis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Weight Assessment for Children/Adolescents</td>
<td>• Use of Imaging Studies: Low Back Pain</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Childhood Immunization Status</td>
<td>• All-Cause Readmissions</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Immunizations for Adolescents</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Breast Cancer Screening</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Colorectal Cancer Screening</td>
<td>• Controlling High Blood Pressure</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Chlamydia Screening in Women</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Care for Older Adults</td>
<td>• Monitoring Harmful Drug-Disease Interactions in the Elderly</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Use of Spirometry Testing in Assessment and Diagnosis of COPD</td>
<td>• Use of High-Risk Medications in the Elderly</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Appropriate Medications for Patients With Asthma</td>
<td>• Medication Reconciliation Post Discharge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Cholesterol Management for Patients With Cardiovascular Conditions</td>
<td>• Initiation and Engagement for Substance Abuse Treatment</td>
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<td>• Controlling High Blood Pressure</td>
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**ACO HEDIS Measures**
Key Policy Areas

• Defining the population for measurement
• Measure reporting to NCQA
• Methods and definitions for data collection and sampling
Defining the Population for Measurement

• ACO
  – Contracting arrangements
  – Attributing patients to ACOs
    • Use the CMS’ MSSP patient attribution model, with the following changes:
      – Have at least 1 primary care service within a 24 month period, rather than the CMS 12-month period
      – Apply the plurality of primary care visits, rather than the CMS plurality of primary care allowed charges
      – Retrospective attribution for measurement – same as CMS
Measure Reporting to NCQA

• Population stratification option for Medicaid
• ACOs and payer or collaborative reporting
• Standard NCQA data submission process
  – Annual in June
  – Data Submission Tool
  – Future audit requirement; not before June 2014
Methods for ACO HEDIS

• Choice of Electronic or Hybrid method for most measures
• Systematic sampling and sample size requirements align with HEDIS
• Require exclusions (as in Physician HEDIS)
• Pharmacy data
  – Allow pharmacy claims or prescriptions initially; may move to pharmacy claims over time
ACO vs. Health Plan HEDIS

• Differences
  – Defining the population
    • Assignment or attribution vs. enrollment
    • No continuous enrollment in ACO
  – Report on patient population with an option to separately report Medicaid
  – ACO allows hybrid method for most measures
  – Exclusions are required for ACOs
  – ACOs use pharmacy claims or prescription data to identify medication use
  – Audit not yet required for ACO HEDIS
• Similarities
  – Measurement year
  – Code tables or value sets
  – Sampling methods
  – Sample size requirements
  – Data submission procedures
  – Technical assistance via Policy Clarification Support (www.ncqa.org/pcs)
## ACO Measures – CMS vs. NCQA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CMS</th>
<th>NCQA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| • 33 Measures  
• Targeted to Medicare  
• Multiple measure stewards | • 29 Measures  
• All payers, all age-groups  
• Adapted from existing HEDIS specs |
| • 4 Domains  
  • Patient/caregiver experience (7 CAHPS measures)  
  • Care coordination/patient safety (6 measures)  
  • Preventive health (8 measures)  
  • At-risk populations (12 measures) | • Similar domains  
  • CAHPS only required for those pursuing accreditation  
  • Substantial overlap in content areas measured; but only four HEDIS measures in both sets  
  • Different measurement model & definition of populations |


NCQA
Measuring quality
Improving health care
## ACO Care Coordination and Patient Safety

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CMS</th>
<th>NCQA</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| • All Condition Readmissions  
• Medication Reconciliation  
• Ambulatory Sensitive Conditions Admissions – COPD, Asthma, Heart Failure  
• Percent of Primary Care Physicians who Qualify for EHR Incentive Payment Screening for Future Fall Risk | • All-Cause Readmissions  
• Medication Reconciliation Post-Discharge  
• Potentially Harmful Drug-Disease Interactions in the Elderly  
• Use of High-Risk Medications in the Elderly |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CMS</th>
<th>NCQA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• BMI Screening and Follow-up</td>
<td>• Adult BMI Assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• <strong>Colorectal Cancer Screening</strong></td>
<td>• Weight Assessment for Children/Adolescents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• <strong>Breast Cancer Screening</strong></td>
<td>• <strong>Colorectal Cancer Screening</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Influenza Immunization</td>
<td>• <strong>Breast Cancer Screening</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Pneumococcal Vaccination</td>
<td>• Cervical Cancer Screening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Tobacco Use: Screening and Cessation Intervention</td>
<td>• Childhood Immunization Status</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Screening for Clinical Depression and Follow-up Plan</td>
<td>• Immunizations for Adolescents</td>
</tr>
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<td>• Screening for High Blood Pressure</td>
<td>• Chlamydia Screening in Women</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>• Care for Older Adults: Medication Review</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# ACO At-Risk Populations - Diabetes

<table>
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<tr>
<th>CMS</th>
<th>NCQA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| • Diabetes Composite  
  • A1c control <8%  
  • LDL control  
  • Blood pressure control  
  • Tobacco non-use  
  • Daily aspirin or antiplatelet  
• **Diabetes A1c Poor Control**<sup>*</sup> | • Comprehensive Adult Diabetes Care  
  • A1c control <8.0%  
  • **A1c poor control >9.0%**<sup>*</sup>  
  • LDL control  
  • Blood pressure control  
  • Eye exam  
  • Medical attention for nephropathy  
  • Foot exam |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CMS</th>
<th>NCQA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Controlling High Blood Pressure*</td>
<td>• Controlling High Blood Pressure*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| • Ischemic Vascular Disease  
  • Lipid panel and LDL control  
  • Use of aspirin or antithrombotic  
  • Heart Failure – Beta Blocker for LVSD  
  • Coronary Artery Disease  
  • Lipid Control  
  • ACE/ARB Therapy | • Cholesterol Management for Patients with Cardiovascular Conditions |
Additional ACO HEDIS Measures

NCQA

- Antidepressant Medication Management
- Follow-Up Care for Children Prescribed ADHD Medications
- Follow-up After Hospitalization for Mental Illness
- Annual Monitoring for Patients on Persistent Medications
- Initiation and Engagement of Alcohol and Other Drug Dependent Treatment
- Avoidance of Antibiotic Treatment in Adults with Acute Bronchitis
- Use of Spirometry Testing in the Assessment and Diagnosis of COPD
- Use of Appropriate Medications for People With Asthma
- DMARD for Rheumatoid Arthritis
- Osteoporosis Management
- Use of Imaging Studies for Low Back Pain
Next Steps for ACO HEDIS

• Gain experience with ACO HEDIS
  – Provide technical assistance to ACOs on measures
  – Begin collecting ACO HEDIS results

• Develop an ACO HEDIS Audit

• Long Term
  – Audited results for scoring and benchmarking
  – Develop new ACO measures
ACO Benchmarking Pilot

• Funded by the Commonwealth Fund
• September 2013 – October 2014
• Goals
  – Understand ACO performance measure reporting capability
  – Examine the usability of ACO measure specifications
  – Assess the ability to develop benchmarks
Purpose

• Modeled after original HEDIS HMO pilot in the 1990s
  – Promote the use of standardized performance measures by ACOs
  – Collaborate with ACOs to collect data, develop benchmarks and share information
  – Identify ACO-specific performance measurement issues (e.g., collection, reporting, organizational issues)

• Release project findings in webinar and report in fall 2014
## ACO Measures Pilot Process

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Tasks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept – Dec 2013</td>
<td>Recruit ACOs&lt;br&gt;• Outreach to clusters of ACOs&lt;br&gt;• Alpha calls with interested ACOs (November)&lt;br&gt;• Distribution of measures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan – Apr 2014</td>
<td>ACOs collect performance measures&lt;br&gt;• NCQA consult with participants on specifications and submission formats</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 2014</td>
<td>ACOs submit results to NCQA</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 2014</td>
<td>NCQA conducts structured interviews with selected ACOs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun – Aug 2014</td>
<td>NCQA analyzes results and calculates benchmarks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 2014</td>
<td>NCQA presents results and findings</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Next Steps for ACO Benchmarking Pilot

- Identify interested ACOs
- Alpha calls with candidate ACOs
  - Structural characteristics
  - Assess readiness for reporting, collection
  - Identify measures being collected, overlap with ACO HEDIS
  - Determine measure set and timing of collection/reporting
- Learn from the group about measurement challenges and opportunities
Resources

• [www.ncqa.org](http://www.ncqa.org)
  – Information on ACO Accreditation
  – Measuring Performance in ACOs Fact Sheet
  – *HEDIS 2013 Technical Specifications for ACO Measurement*
  – ACO Measure Pilot Project
    • Email ACOpilot@ncqa.org