Environmental Scan

Goal:
- To identify approaches to feasibility testing from measure developers, government contractors, electronic health record (EHR) vendors, and providers.

Stakeholders:
- Vendors
- Developers
- Providers
Environmental Scan

Process:
- Developed questions for stakeholder groups
  - General approach to feasibility testing
  - Current efforts of collaboration or interrelationships with vendors, and/or measure developers and/or providers in regards to feasibility testing
  - How feasibility fits into business cycle (vendor)
  - When does testing occur (measure developers)
  - Impacts to workflow to be addressed during development (provider)
- Identified stakeholders to contact
Stakeholders who have Responded

- Vendors
  - Allscripts
  - Epic
  - GE Healthcare
  - Greenway
  - McKesson
  - Meditech
  - NextGen

- Measure Developers:
  - Mathematica Policy Research
  - The Joint Commission
  - Yale

- Providers
  - Baylor
  - Mercy
  - PMSI
Summary of Vendor Responses

General approach to feasibility testing for implementing

- Review of specifications and value sets to identity what is to be captured
- Assess to ensure required data elements for e-measures are in the EHR; if gaps, where in workflow to add?
- Build detailed workflow documents
- Assess impact to provider workflow
- Evaluate that accurate and consistent calculations are achieved
- Work with customers to provide input on workflows and system changes
Assess impact of eMeasure implementation and workflow issues

- Gap analysis by clinical specialist and SW developers to identify gaps in workflow
- Identify workflow best practices for users
  - Vendor knowledge experts
  - Customers
Summary of Vendor Responses

Assessment of short-term feasibility of implementation

- Assessment of e-measures to ensure current system captures the data needed for calculations
- Identifying best practice workflows to capture the data – workflow may not be optimal but is a means to an end
- Interoperability and data exchange required for the measure are currently unavailable
- Resource constraints are a challenge for short-term development
Summary of Vendor Responses

Assessment of long-term feasibility of implementation

- Need to align measures across multiple programs using harmonized measures
- Depends on the lead time to get a measure into production
- Enhance reporting tools to ease adoption for customers
- Improved data analytics
Summary of Vendor Responses

Feasibility testing fitting business cycle
- Assessment of measure impact on EHR including review of established workflows to ensure desires results are attained
- Involve early adopters in the process
- Testing performed with release of new/updated quality measure specifications and implementation of e-measures
- No formal ‘feasibility testing’; validate that product meets user’s needs
- Used in multiple phases of development (iterations)
- Involve stakeholders in the process
- Developed tool sets for data capture
Summary of Vendor Responses

Collaboration for feasibility testing

- Early adopter and early validation program
  - Allows users/providers to test the measure, provide feedback and identify workflow best practices
- Work with customers and vendor partners to identify data capture best practices
- Engage measure developers and providers in testing
- Engaged by measure developers to participate in testing
- Work with industry groups to address measurement issues
- Timing of request to participate in measure testing can be problematic
Summary of Developers

Approach to feasibility testing for implementing into EHRs

- Starts when core clinical concepts are identified and specifications drafted
- Establish Health IT advisory panels
- Seek publish comment on draft specifications
- Assess data capture capabilities
- Align eMeasure definition with data transmission capabilities (QDM/HQMF/QRDA)
- Evolving process
- Approaches different for re-specified and de novo measure
Summary of Developers

Decisions when testing identifies feasibility problems

- Assess the impact of removing a concept – does it change the intent of the measure?
- Look for alternatives for capturing data
- Consider alternate representations for clinical concepts
- Include CMS/funder in decision making process
- Structure of data elements: ‘just because the field exists doesn’t mean it is populated’
- Issue resolution may not possible
Summary of Developers

When does feasibility testing currently occur?

- After the draft electronic specifications are completed but before publishing draft specs for public comment
- Testing is a continuum
Testing for feasibility, reliability and validity across multiple vendor systems

- Testing of measures occurred at multiple sites using 6 EHR vendor products
- Need to consider workflow in testing
- Results will vary based on structural and site experience and workflow
Summary of Developers

Collaboration for feasibility testing

- Pilot project with ONC-certified ORYX vendors to transmit eMeasure data (TJC)
- Future project: “...assess ability of disparate EHRs ...to collect standardized, risk adjusted and clinically relevant outcome measures” (TJC)
- Testing at multiple sites with different EHRs
- Convene multidisciplinary TEPs to provide guidance
Summary of Providers

Expectations of feasibility testing prior to implementation

- Test data set
- Testing
  - Occurs with all major EHR vendor products
  - At hospitals with disparate information systems that have data required for the eMeasure
  - Of multiple facility types
- Pilot test measures in multiple practice types: solo, medium, large, multispecialty, academic
- Clearly defined data elements
Factors impacting implementation and workflow issues that should be addressed or factored into the development of eMeasures

- Workflow
  - Impact of moving from abstracted to re-tooled measures
  - Issues related to disparate systems
- Physician adoption of discrete data documentation
- Standardization of data
- Clearer data elements
Collaboration or interrelationships with vendors and measure developers in regards to feasibility testing

- eCMQ testing at multiple sites of various sizes with various products
- Recommend ONC require all vendors to certify for all eMeasures
- Improved data sharing from disparate vendors
- Compensate test sites financially or with assistance/support
QUESTIONS