eMeasure Feasibility Testing

Environmental Scan

October 30, 2012

NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM

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

Summary of Vendor Responses

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

Summary of Developers

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

Summary of Providers

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

Summary of Providers

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