



The Measure Applications Partnership (MAP) Post-Acute Care/Long-Term Care Workgroup Orientation Web Meeting

The National Quality Forum (NQF) convened a public web meeting for the Measure Applications Partnership (MAP) Post-Acute Care/Long-Term Care (PAC/LTC) Workgroup on November 4, 2021, with support from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

Welcome and Review of Web Meeting Objectives

Dr. Matthew Pickering, Senior Director, NQF, welcomed participants to the Orientation Web Meeting. MAP PAC/LTC Workgroup Co-Chair Dr. Gerri Lamb provided opening remarks and welcomed new and returning MAP PAC/LTC Workgroup members. Dr. Pickering reviewed the meeting agenda and the following meeting objectives:

- Review the 2021-2022 pre-rulemaking approach
- Review the goals and structure of each program
- Review the critical objectives of each program
- Identify measurement gap areas

CMS Welcoming Remarks

Dr. Alan Levitt, Medical Officer, Division of Chronic and Post Acute Care, CMS, welcomed participants to the meeting. Dr. Levitt thanked the Co-Chairs, MAP members, and NQF and CMS staff for their work and support in these efforts and extended special thanks to the many healthcare workers on the front lines of the pandemic response. Dr. Levitt highlighted the progress made in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic since the MAP PAC/LTC Workgroup met in 2020, and shared news of the recent White House decision to mandate vaccinations for all healthcare workers in facilities participating in Medicare and Medicaid programs. Dr. Levitt reminded members of the importance of their feedback in CMS' decision making process for pre-rulemaking.

The MAP Pre-Rulemaking Approach

Susanne Young, Manager, NQF, provided an overview of the MAP timeline of activities since the summer of 2021. Ms. Young noted that the MAP Rural and Health Equity Advisory Groups and Workgroups would convene in early to mid-December for their respective Review Web Meetings. The MAP Coordinating Committee will convene its Review Web Meeting in January 2022 and will be followed by the submission of a final report of MAP recommendations to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) by February 1, 2022.

Ms. Young also provided a brief review of the pilot Measure Set Review (MSR) process conducted by the MAP Coordinating Committee in September 2021. During this pilot, the MAP Coordinating Committee members reviewed and provided input on 22 measures from several Hospital programs and provided feedback on processes for future MSR meetings. The [final report](#) from the pilot is available online. Ms. Young noted that the MSR initiative will be expanded and implemented among all MAP Workgroups and Advisory Groups in the coming year, and MAP members will receive additional information in early

2022.

Overview of Programs Under Consideration

Dr. Pickering reviewed each of the programs included in the MAP PAC/LTC Workgroup charge. For each program, Dr. Pickering provided information on the type of program, the incentive structure, program goals, a list of current measures, and a summary of the CMS priorities for future measure consideration derived from the [2021 CMS Program-Specific Measure Needs and Priorities document](#). The following programs were reviewed:

- Skilled Nursing Facility Quality Reporting Program (SNF QRP)
- Home Health Quality Reporting Program (HH QRP)
- Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility Quality Reporting Program (IRF QRP)
- Long-Term Care Hospital Quality Reporting Program (LTCH QRP)
- Hospice Quality Reporting Program (HQRP)
- Skilled Nursing Facility Value-Based Purchasing (SNF VBP) Program

After the overview of each program, Dr. Lamb facilitated discussion on additional priorities that MAP PAC/LTC members agreed should be considered for the program. The following program-specific additions were suggested:

- Skilled Nursing Facility Quality Reporting Program (SNF QRP)
 - Social isolation and loneliness
 - Expansion of care coordination measures
 - Patient and/or caregiver self-efficacy upon discharge to the community
 - Digital equity
- Home Health Quality Reporting Program (HH QRP)
 - Community-level performance measures for patients whose goals include reengagement
 - Instrumental activities of daily living (IADLs) and functional cognition
 - Social isolation and loneliness and person-environment fit
- Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility Quality Reporting Program (IRF QRP)
 - Patient experience
- Long-Term Care Hospital Quality Reporting Program (LTCH QRP)
 - Digital equity
- Hospice Quality Reporting Program (HQRP)
 - No additional suggestions from MAP PAC/LTC Workgroup members
- Skilled Nursing Facility Value-Based Purchasing (SNF VBP) Program
 - Reviewing or updating existing staffing measures

During the review of the HQRP, Dr. Pickering noted that a presentation with follow-up information on the Hospice Outcome & Patient Evaluations (HOPE) tool would be provided by CMS at the December Review Meeting. Dr. Pickering also reviewed updates to the SNF VBP Program following the authorization of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, which allows the Secretary to apply up to 9 additional measures to the program. CMS is currently hosting a request for information (RFI) seeking input on the expansion of this program. Dr. Lamb noted that the MAP PAC/LTC Workgroup would be asked to provide feedback on specific measures or measure areas for inclusion in this expansion, including priorities for implementation, during the December Review Meeting. Dr. Lamb highlighted the significance of this opportunity to provide input to the program's development.

Following the discussion of programs, Dr. Pickering provided an overview of overarching themes that

emerged during the 2021-2022 MAP cycle. These themes included measures to address COVID-19 vaccination rates, evolving trends in service setting, connections between cost measures and quality measures, measure burden and digital measures, composite measures, and care coordination.

MAP Rural Health and Health Equity Advisory Groups Review of Measures Under Consideration (MUCs)

Dr. Pickering reviewed the role of the MAP Rural Health and Health Equity Advisory Groups in the pre-rulemaking process. The Advisory Groups will provide input to the MAP Workgroups and Coordinating Committee on each measure under consideration which will be shared during the Review Web Meetings. The feedback from the Rural Health and Health Equity Advisory Groups will focus on the rural perspective and impacts of measure implementation on rural providers and facilities, and the potential impacts of each measure on health differences linked to social, economic, or environmental disadvantages, respectively.

CMS Feedback Loop Presentation

Dr. Levitt provided a presentation to the MAP PAC/LTC Workgroup to demonstrate how the Workgroup's past feedback has been incorporated into proposed and final rules for programs within the PAC/LTC federal programs. Dr. Levitt provided the following updates on measures reviewed by the Workgroup in the 2020-2021 MAP cycle:

- **MUC2020-0002 Skilled Nursing Facility Healthcare-Associated Infections Requiring Hospitalization** - MAP recommendation: "conditional pending NQF endorsement"; finalized in FY 2022 for the SNF QRP; will be submitted in the future for NQF endorsement
- **MUC20-0030 Hospice Care Index**- MAP recommendation: "conditional pending NQF endorsement"; finalized in FY 2022 for the HQR; will be submitted in the future for NQF endorsement
- **MUC20-0044 COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage Among Healthcare Personnel (HCP)** - MAP recommendation: "conditional support for rulemaking for all settings (SNF QRP, LTCH QRP, IRF QRP)"; finalized in FY 2022 for all three programs; data collection began on 10/1/2021; will be submitted in the future for NQF endorsement

During discussion of MUC20-0044: COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage Among Healthcare Personnel (HCP), a PAC/LTC Workgroup member asked for clarity on why that measure had not been proposed for additional programs in the PAC/LTC setting. Dr. Levitt clarified that the measure was National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN)-based, and therefore was applied to those settings already enrolled in NHSN as the best starting point. Dr. Levitt also noted that the specifications of the measure had been changed to be collected on a quarterly basis per feedback from the MAP. MAP PAC/LTC Workgroup members questioned if future COVID-19 vaccination measures would be considered for patient and resident populations. Dr. Levitt acknowledged that there was interest in such measure development and shared that a technical expert panel (TEP) had been convened around that work.

Following these specific measure updates, Dr. Levitt also shared additional program updates finalized into rulemaking. In the HH QRP, three measures were finalized for removal. "Emergency Department Use Without Hospitalization During the First 60 Days of HH" and "Acute Care Hospitalization During the First 60 Days of HH" were finalized for removal following their replacement in CY 2022 with "Potentially Preventable Hospitalization," which was reviewed and conditionally supported by the MAP PAC/LTC Workgroup in 2019. "Drug Education on All Medications Provided to Patient/Caregiver during all Episodes of Care" was also finalized for removal.

Dr. Levitt shared that a cross-cutting measure, “Transfer of Health Information”, had been updated for the IRF QRP, LTCH QRP, and SNF QRP so that denominators would align with the measure as used in the HH QRP and reviewed additional measure updates listed on the presentation slides. Dr. Levitt informed the MAP PAC/LTC Workgroup members of open RFIs focusing on 1) identification of steps that would enable transformation supporting digital quality measurement, and 2) closing the health equity gap in PAC/LTC quality reporting programs.

Opportunity for Public Comment

No public comments were offered during the public commenting period. However, one member of the public suggested the additions of advanced care planning, transitions of care, and data exchange during the SNF QRP discussion.

Next Steps

Becky Payne, Senior Analyst, NQF, summarized next steps for the MAP PAC/LTC Workgroup. Members were reminded of upcoming MAP Advisory Group and Workgroup Review Web Meetings, which are open to the public. The MAP PAC/LTC Workgroup Virtual Review Meeting will convene on December 16, 2021. Prior to participating in this meeting, all MAP members are required to complete a disclosure of interest form. Ms. Payne noted that resources available to PAC/LTC members to prepare for upcoming meetings include the [2021 CMS Program-Specific Measure Needs and Priorities document](#), the [CMS Pre-Rulemaking website](#), and the [MAP Member Guidebook](#) (PDF). All MAP PAC/LTC Workgroup members are encouraged to contact NQF staff with any questions or concerns at MAPPAC-LTC@qualityforum.org.