MEASURE APPLICATIONS PARTNERSHIP
CLINICIAN WORKGROUP
Convened by the National Quality Forum

Summary of Web Meeting #1

A web meeting of the Measure Applications Partnership (MAP) Clinician Workgroup was held on Thursday, June 30, 2011. For those interested in reviewing an online archive of the web meeting please click on the link below:

http://www.myeventpartner.com/NQFwebinar/E951D880814D

The next meeting of the Clinician Workgroup will be an in-person meeting on July 13-14, 2011, in Washington, DC.

Committee Members in Attendance at the June 30 webinar:

Chair

Mark McClellan, MD, PhD

Organizational Members

American Academy of Family Physicians	Bruce Bagley, MD
American Academy of Nurse Practitioners	Mary Jo Goolsby, EdD, MSN, NP-C, CAE, FAANP
American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons	Douglas Burton, MD
American College of Cardiology	Paul Casale, MD, FACC
American College of Radiology	David Seidenwurm, MD
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association	Janet Brown, MA, CCC-SLP
Association of American Medical Colleges	Joanne Conroy, MD
Center for Patient Partnerships	Rachel Grob, PhD
CIGNA	Richard Salmon MD, PhD
Consumers' CHECKBOOK	Robert Krughoff, JD
Kaiser Permanente	Amy Compton-Phillips, MD
Minnesota Community Measurement	Beth Averbeck, MD
Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement	Mark Metersky, MD
The Alliance	Cheryl DeMars
Unite Here Health	Elizabeth Gilbertson, MS

Expertise	**Individual Subject Matter Expert Members**
Disparities	Marshall Chin, MD, MPH, FACP
Population Health	Eugene Nelson, MPH, DSc
Shared Decision Making	Karen Sepucha, PhD
Team-Based Care	Ronald Stock, MD, MA

Health IT/ Patient Reported Outcome Measures	James Walker, MD, FACP
Measure Methodologist	Dolores Yanagihara, MPH

Federal Government Members

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)	Darryl Gray, MD, ScD
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)	Peter Briss, MD, MPH
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)	Michael Rapp, MD, JD, FACEP
Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)	Ian Corbridge, MPH, RN
Office of the National Coordinator for HIT (ONC)	Thomas Tsang, MD, MPH
Veterans Health Administration (VHA)	Joseph Francis, MD, MPH

The primary objectives of the web meeting were to:

- *Review the MAP Clinician Workgroup charge and the plan for accomplishing the charge,*
- *Review alignment challenges with the current federal programs for clinician performance measurement, and*
- *Propose guidance to HHS for better aligning the federal programs.*

The Clinician Workgroup Chair, Mark McClellan, welcomed attendees and reviewed the meeting objectives. Tom Valuck, Senior Vice President, Strategic Partnerships, NQF, reviewed the Workgroup's overall timeline of work and how federal program alignment issues fit into the Clinician Workgroup's scope of work.

Karen Milgate, Director, Office of Policy, Center for Strategic Planning, CMS provided an overview of the federal program alignment challenges for which CMS is looking for input from the Measure Applications Partnership. There are multiple federal programs aimed at measuring and improving clinician quality (e.g. PQRS; EHR/MU; Physician Compare; e-Prescribing Incentive Program; Physician Feedback/Value Modifier). The programs were created for different purposes and have competing characteristics, including varying reporting requirements and measure specifications, and differing timelines for data reporting, providing feedback to physicians, and distributing incentives.

Aucha Prachanronarong, Office of Clinical Standards and Quality, CMS, further explained the detailed differences among the programs. The issues she described were focused on data collection (differences in measure specifications, sample size, and data collection mechanisms) and data reporting (separate reporting mechanisms, individual vs. group reporting, reporting periods, and submission of data vs. rates). This led to discussion among the Workgroup about the level of engagement in these programs by clinicians. The issue was raised that benchmarking is not truly possible at this point as clinicians all report different subsets of measures, leading the Workgroup to note the need for a "core set" of measures. There was discussion about whether each specialty group needs its own unique set of measures, and which measures – such as care coordination or shared decision-marking – are cross-cutting. The group pointed out that cross-cutting measures, which range across specialties and conditions, are of most interest to consumers.

JoAnne Conroy of AAMC led the discussion as Workgroup members addressed the following questions:

- Which areas of misalignment across the federal programs for clinician performance measurement are most concerning?
- Should all programs move toward collecting only electronically-submitted data to encourage adoption of HIT and availability of real time feedback?
- Should all programs allow both individual and group reporting?
- Should all programs require submission of data elements instead of calculated measure results, as data elements can be used for multiple purposes?

The Workgroup's resulting discussion raised the following points:

- The need for a single, standardized data reporting process across all federal programs, and ultimately all payers
- Aligned measure specifications across all federal programs, and ultimately all payers
- A single data set to collect all necessary elements, periodically reported
- Data reporting at the individual physician level with aggregation to group level
- Data collection during the course of care
- Ability to collect patient reported data
- Timeliness of feedback to physicians
- Transparency of processes and information in all of the programs