Guiding Principles for Applying Measures to Clinician Programs

Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS)

- For endorsed measures, whether currently finalized or under consideration:
    - o Include NQF-endorsed measures relevant to clinician reporting to encourage engagement (the endorsement process addresses harmonization of competing measures)
- For measures that are not endorsed:
    - o Measures currently finalized for the program:
        - ▪ Remove measures that have had endorsement removed or have been submitted for endorsement and were not endorsed
        - ▪ Remove measures that are in endorsement reserve status (i.e., topped out), unless the measures are clinically relevant to specialties/subspecialties that do not currently have clinically relevant measures
    - o Include measures under consideration that are fully specified and that:
        - ▪ Support alignment (e.g., measures used in MOC programs, registries)
        - ▪ Are outcome measures that are not already addressed by outcome measures included in the program
        - ▪ Are clinically relevant to specialties/subspecialties that do not currently have clinically relevant measures
    - o Measures selected for the program that are not NQF-endorsed should be submitted for endorsement

Physician Compare

- NQF-endorsed measures are preferred over measures that are not endorsed or are in reserve status (i.e., topped out); measures that are not NQF-endorsed should be submitted for endorsement or removed
- Include measures that focus on outcomes and are meaningful to consumers (i.e., have face validity) and purchasers
- Focus on patient experience, patient-reported outcomes (e.g., functional status), care coordination, population health (e.g., risk assessment, prevention), and appropriate care measures
- To generate a comprehensive picture of quality, measure results should be aggregated (e.g., composite measures), with drill-down capability for specific measure results

Value-Based Payment Modifier (VBPM)

- NQF-endorsed measures are strongly preferred for payment programs; measures that are not NQF-endorsed should be submitted for endorsement or removed

- Include measures that have been reported in a national program for at least one year (e.g., PQRS), and ideally can be linked with particular cost or resource use measures to capture value
- Focus on outcomes, composites, process measures that are proximal to outcomes, appropriate care (e.g., overuse), and care coordination measures (measures included in the MAP families of measures generally reflect these characteristics).
- Monitor for unintended consequences to vulnerable populations (e.g., through stratification)

Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Program for Eligible Professionals (Meaningful Use)

- Include endorsed measures, whether currently finalized for the program or under consideration, that have eMeasure specifications available (the endorsement process addresses issues of harmonization and competing measures)
- Over time, as health IT becomes more effective and interoperable, focus on:
  - Health IT-sensitive measures that provide information on whether electronic health records are changing care processes
  - Health IT-enabled measures that require data from multiple settings/providers or are longitudinal and would require an integrated system-wide health IT-enabled collection platform to be fully operational

Additional Considerations

- Work toward a core set of measures that all clinicians, regardless of specialty, can report across all programs. The core set should focus on patient experience and engagement, patient-reported outcomes, other outcomes, care coordination, appropriate care, and population health (e.g., health risk assessment, prevention).
- To promote parsimony and alignment, the same measures should serve multiple programs, where possible (e.g., Meaningful Use and PQRS; Medicare Shared Savings and Medicare Advantage).
- Measures should be tested at the appropriate level of analysis (e.g., individual, group, system) before inclusion in public reporting or payment programs. PQRS can serve as a mechanism for testing measures.