

Presenter Bios for IRF QRP PROVIDER TRAINING



May 9–10, 2018
Lord Baltimore Hotel
Baltimore, MD



**Carole A. Schwartz, M.S.,
ORT/L**

**Research Public Health Analyst
RTI INTERNATIONAL**

Carole Schwartz has worked at RTI for nearly 3 years as a research public health analyst with the Quality Measurement and Health Policy program within the eHealth, Quality & Analytics Division. Carole has 20 years of combined professional clinical and research experience with acute and post-acute care rehabilitation populations. This experience includes having led the medication reconciliation quality measure development to meet the requirements of the Improving Medicare Post-Acute Care Transformation Act of 2014, conducting pilot testing, and analyzing results to inform development of contents of current work in developing training manuals to inform data collection.

Carole is a team member in developing the Transfer of Health Information cross-setting quality measure. She has contributed and continues to contribute to Function quality measures, including in national provider trainings and as a subject matter expert (SME) in developing the content for the cross-setting quality measure provider training materials and managing helpdesk processes as a content SME. Carole's work history includes being a lead trainer for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Post-Acute Care Payment Reform Demonstration (PAC-PRD) projects. She contributed as a clinical team member in developing the Continuity Assessment and Record Evaluation used for the PAC-PRD and Developing Outpatient Therapy Payment Alternatives projects and contributed to synthesizing data content for mandatory reports to Congress for the PAC-PRD project. Additionally, Carole has experience in the areas of healthcare and long-term services and supports/home and community-based services issues affecting post-acute care populations within State Medicaid and Federal Medicare policy. Specific knowledge includes Medicare and Medicaid policy, rehabilitation consulting, clinical practice, clinical Continuing Education Unit, and master's level Gerontology Adjust teaching.



**Ann M. Spenard, D.N.P.,
R.N.-BC**

**Vice President and Principal
QUALIDIGM**

Ann Spenard is a Principal and Vice President at Qualidigm, chiefly responsible for program operations and overseeing major initiatives at Qualidigm, including the Quality Innovation Network-Quality Improvement Organization contract with CMS. Throughout her extensive career as a long-term care and geriatrics specialist, Ann has led national quality, patient safety, and data validation projects. She has also taught nationally to providers groups and CMS.

Ann is involved in multiple research projects and publications on topics related to patient safety and healthcare quality improvement. She is a master trainer for TeamSTEPPS, an evidence-based teamwork program to improve patient safety, and helped adapt this national program for use in long-term care.

Prior to joining Qualidigm, Ann was the founder and president of Healthcare Consultation & Education Resources, Inc., where she provided consultation and education on issues of long-term care and geriatrics.

Ann received a B.S.N. from Western Connecticut State University, a M.S.N., and a D.N.P. from Sacred Heart University. She serves on the Connecticut League of Nursing Board and the Avila Institute of Gerontology Board.



**Karen Prior-Topalis, R.N.,
M.A., B.S., CCM, ACCC,
CBIS**

**Regional Director of Rehabilitation Quality
and Outcomes**

MOUNT SINAI REHABILITATION HOSPITAL

Karen Prior-Topalis is the Regional Director of Rehabilitation Quality and Outcomes at Mount Sinai Rehabilitation Hospital in Hartford, CT. Karen is a graduate of Central Connecticut State University, where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. She also holds a Master of Business Administration degree from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. A member of the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, Karen has held various positions during her career of more than 30 years. Her prior roles include Nurse Manager of an inpatient rehabilitation unit, Prospective Payment System (PPS) Coordinator, Staff Development Instructor, and Case Manager. She is a Certified Case Manager (CCM), a member of the American Case Manager Association (ACMA), and a member of the Connecticut chapter of ACMA. Karen is also a 2007 recipient of the prestigious Nightingale Award for Excellence in Nursing.

Throughout her career, Karen has created and delivered training and education to all levels of staff and patients. She developed training for the Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility-Patient Assessment Instrument and programs for the ongoing credentialing of employees completing the FIM® Instrument. Her team created innovative methods to engage employees using interactive games and strategies to educate all types of learners and impact patient outcomes.

In her current role, Karen was instrumental in creating the Quality and Outcomes Department, a comprehensive department in which she manages the admissions staff, case managers, and PPS Coordinator. This model reflects her philosophy of an integrated team responsible for the functional, satisfaction, and financial outcomes of the patients.



Tri Le, Ph.D., M.P.H.

**Research Public Health and Long-Term
Care Hospital (LTCH) Analyst
RTI INTERNATIONAL**

Tri is a research public health analyst and LTCH analyst at RTI International. He obtained his doctoral degree in health services research and policy at the University of Pittsburgh. During his doctoral studies, he conducted research evaluating care for critically ill patients and LTCH quality. Tri is involved in the development and implementation of public reporting of LTCH performance and leads the development of the ventilator liberation quality measures.



Shamire Casselle

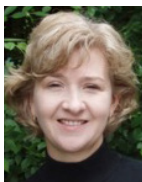
**Program Analyst
Division of Quality Systems for
Assessments and Surveys
CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID
SERVICES (CMS)**

After earning her B.A. from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Shamire worked at the Social Security Administration in the Office of Disability Systems. Here she served as a Contracting Officer's Representative (COR) for disability processing systems and a Budget Analyst for several IT funding sources. Shamire joined CMS in 2013 in the Center for Clinical Standards and Quality (CCSQ) Information Systems Group (ISG). Shamire served as a COR for the Development Effort Consolidated Contract, the Quality Identity Management System contract, the Financial Information and Vouchering System contract, the End Stage Renal Disease Quality Reporting System contract, and the Healthway contract. Throughout her Federal career, Shamire served on numerous technical evaluation panels that resulted in the award of several IT contracts. She also implemented several Lean process procedures in ISG, including the Monthly Award Fee Evaluation Process and the Acquisition Plan process. Eager to learn the business side of CCSQ, Shamire joined the Division of Quality Systems for Assessments and Surveys in 2017. She worked on the Home Health care setting before taking on the COR and Product Owner role on the Internet Quality Improvement Evaluation System contract full time.



Christine Grose, M.S., R.N.
**Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility Quality
Reporting Program Coordinator
CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID
SERVICES (CMS)**

Christine Grose, M.S., R.N., received her nursing degree from Towson University in Baltimore and a M.S.N. from Stevenson University. She also has a bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of Pittsburgh. Prior to coming to CMS, she worked in the acute care hospital setting as a certified Oncology Nurse in a variety of positions, including Nurse Educator in the Department of Nursing Practice, Education, and Research. In her role as Nurse Educator, her responsibilities included staff education and support in multiple areas of quality improvement, including pressure ulcer prevention and implementation of processes for the prevention of central line-associated bloodstream infection and catheter-associated urinary tract infection. She is currently the Coordinator for the Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility Quality Reporting Program.



**Anne Deutsch, RN, Ph.D.,
CRRN**

**Senior Research Public Health Analyst
RTI INTERNATIONAL**

Anne Deutsch, RN, Ph.D., CRRN, is a senior research public health analyst with RTI International. She is a certified rehabilitation registered nurse with a doctoral degree in epidemiology and community health. She was part of the team that developed the Continuity Assessment and Record Evaluation tool and was involved in training data collectors and data analysis in the Medicare Post-Acute Care Payment Reform Demonstration. Anne has an appointment as a Clinical Research Scientist at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago's Center for Rehabilitation Outcomes Research and is a Research Associate Professor in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation in Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine.



**Joseph B. Clift, Ed.D., M.P.H.,
M.S., PMP**

**Health Insurance Specialist
CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID
SERVICES (CMS)**

Joseph Clift is a Health Insurance Specialist for CMS. He has more than 15 years of experience in public health in the public and private sectors. He currently serves as the measures lead for the Hospital-Acquired Condition Reduction Program and supports the Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting and Outpatient Quality Reporting programs. Joseph works alongside measure stewards to assist with measure development and management; supports proposed and final rule development, including responding to public comments, for CMS' Inpatient and Outpatient Prospective Payment System rules; and serves as a Contracting Officer's Representative (COR) on assigned contracts and Interagency Agreements. He serves as the COR for a large measures development and maintenance contract and served as the COR and co-survey developer for the Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility and Long-Term Care Hospital experience of care surveys. Prior to joining CMS, he worked at the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the Health Resources and Services Administration, and as an adjunct instructor of healthcare research.