

Clinical Subcommittee Charter

MACRA Episode-Based Cost Measures Clinical Subcommittees, Wave 3

May 2019

Project Title:

MACRA Episode-Based Cost Measures

Dates:

The first Wave 3 Clinical Subcommittee meetings are scheduled for the last week of May 2019.

Project Overview:

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has contracted with Acumen, LLC to develop care episode and patient condition groups for use in cost measures to meet the requirements of the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA). The contract name is “MACRA Episode Groups and Cost Measures.” The contract number is HHSM-500-2013-13002I, Task Order HHSM-500-T00002. As part of the development and maintenance processes, Acumen, LLC convenes groups of stakeholders and experts who contribute direction and thoughtful input during development of episode-based cost measures.

Project Objectives:

The project’s overall objective is to develop episode-based cost measures suitable for potential use in the Quality Payment Program.

Subcommittee Objectives:

Acumen’s measure development approach is to convene clinician expert panels called Clinical Subcommittees focused on particular clinical areas in cycles of development (“waves”). In 2017, Wave 1 of the Clinical Subcommittees included the following seven Subcommittees: Cardiovascular Disease Management; Gastrointestinal Disease Management – Medical and Surgical; Musculoskeletal Disease Management – Non-Spine; Neuropsychiatric Disease Management; Ophthalmologic Disease Management; Peripheral Vascular Disease Management; and Pulmonary Disease Management. In 2018, Wave 2 of the Clinical Subcommittees included six of the seven Subcommittees from Wave 1 (excluding Ophthalmologic Disease Management) and four new Subcommittees: Musculoskeletal Disease Management - Spine; Oncologic Disease Management - Medical, Radiation, and Surgical; Renal Disease Management; and Urologic Disease Management.

The four Clinical Subcommittees that will be convened in 2019 compose Wave 3 and include: Chronic Condition and Disease Management; Dermatologic Disease Management; General and Colorectal Surgery; Hospital Medicine. The Chronic Condition and Disease Management Subcommittee will develop chronic condition episode-based cost measures, while the other Subcommittees will develop procedural and acute inpatient medical condition episode-based cost measures.

The nomination period for these Clinical Subcommittees closes on April 12, 2019. We will, however, continue to accept nominations on a continual basis after this date; nominees who

submit their information after this date will enter a standing pool of nominees who may be selected for participation in condition- or procedure-specific workgroups convened within each Subcommittee.

Specific to these Clinical Subcommittees, the objectives may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Select which episode-based cost measure to develop
- Discuss the measure intent
- Provide input on the desired composition of the workgroup that will build out the selected measure

In addition to these topics, the Chronic Subcommittee will also consider and provide input on the basic framework of chronic condition episode groups, including logic for opening (or “triggering”) an episode and attributing episodes to clinicians.

Once the measure-specific workgroups are created, their objectives may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Provide input to refine episode group triggers from the draft list of episode groups posted by CMS in December 2016
- Recommend what services should be included in episode-based cost measure
- Recommend the length of the episode window
- Recommend sub-groups to compare like patients (if applicable)
- Recommend risk adjustment variables to include in the risk adjustment model
- Recommend measure exclusion criteria

Scope of Responsibilities:

The Clinical Subcommittees’ role is to: (i) select which episode-based cost measure to develop, (ii) discuss the measure intent, and (iii) provide input on the desired composition of the workgroup that will build out the selected measure. The measure-specific workgroups’ role is to provide clinical input and advice to the measure contractor on the clinical specifications and development of episode-based cost measures suitable for potential use in the Quality Payment Program.

Guiding Principles:

Clinical Subcommittee and workgroup members must be aware that participation is voluntary. As such, Clinical Subcommittee and workgroup members should understand that their input will be recorded in meeting notes. In addition, project staff from CMS may attend the Clinical Subcommittee and workgroup meetings. Proceedings of the Clinical Subcommittees and workgroups will be summarized in a brief report that will be shared with members. If a participant discloses private, personal data by his or her own choice, then that material and those communications are not deemed to be covered by patient-provider confidentiality. All potential Clinical Subcommittee and workgroup members must disclose any current and past activities that may pose a potential conflict of interest for performing the tasks required of the Clinical Subcommittee or workgroup. All Clinical Subcommittee and workgroup members should be able to commit to the anticipated timeframe needed to perform the functions of their group.

The input and recommendations provided by Clinical Subcommittee and workgroup members will be considered by the measure contractor. Clinical Subcommittee and workgroup co-chairs will help facilitate discussion and resolve points of disagreement. Where decisions are needed to provide direction to the contractor for measure development, a vote may be conducted.

Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings:

- Members of each Clinical Subcommittee are expected to attend the following meetings and perform the following tasks:
 - Review preparatory materials shared ahead of the meeting and complete pre-meeting survey
 - **Attend 1 day-long meeting** in the last week of May 2019
- Members of the measure-specific workgroups resulting from the measures selected by the Clinical Subcommittees are expected to attend the following meetings and perform the following tasks:
 - Review preparatory materials shared ahead of the meeting and complete pre-meeting survey
 - **Attend 1 day-long in-person meeting for workgroup members only** for episode group specification in Washington, D.C. in August 2019 (exact dates will be determined taking into consideration workgroup member availability)

Date Approved by Subcommittee:

To be approved by each Clinical Subcommittee during their initial meeting.

Subcommittee Membership:

N/A – Draft Charter