

## Technical Expert Panel Call for TEP Web Page Posting

### **Project Title:**

Development of Measure to Assess Accountable Care Organizations' (ACOs) Year-to-Year Improvement in Acute Admission Rates

### **Dates:**

- ◆ The Technical Expert Panel (TEP) nomination period closes on Wednesday, May 13, 2015. Please submit all nomination materials by the closing date.

### **Project Overview:**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is developing a novel methodology to assess year-to-year improvement in three ACO risk-adjusted outcome measures. Yale New Haven Health Services Corporation – Center for Outcomes Research and Evaluation (CORE) is leading the work under contract to CMS. As part of its measure development process, CMS/CORE is convening a panel of stakeholders and experts to contribute to measure development.

CMS/CORE previously developed three ACO risk-adjusted acute admission measures that CMS has added to the Shared Savings Program measure set. The three measures evaluate how each ACO's acute admission rate for patients with diabetes, heart failure, and multiple chronic conditions compare to what would be expected given the rates for other providers with similar patients. In other words, the three measures assess each ACO's performance relative to that of other providers. Hence, if all providers lower their rates substantially from one year to the next but one ACO lowers its rate less than average, the ACO will look worse on these measures of relative performance in the second year even though it is improving. The ACO improvement measure under development, in contrast, will assess whether each individual ACO improved its acute admission rate, independent of other providers' progress.

### **Project Objectives:**

- ◆ The primary goal of this project is to develop an administrative claims-based, risk-adjusted improvement measure to assess ACO-level year-over-year improvement in the rate of acute, unplanned admissions.

### **TEP Requirements:**

A TEP of approximately 10-15 individuals will provide critical input on the construction of the measure, including model development and performance. The improvement measure will use (and not reevaluate) clinically driven decisions made previously for the diabetes, heart failure, and

multiple chronic conditions measures (i.e., we will use the same patient cohort, the same outcome, and the same risk-adjustment variables). Hence, the TEP for this measure will benefit relatively less from clinical expertise and more from statistical methods and policy expertise. We are therefore seeking individuals with the following perspectives and areas of expertise for the TEP:

- ◆ Subject matter expertise: ACO design, quality performance standards and management
- ◆ Quality measure development and quantitative methodology
- ◆ Consumer/patient/family perspective
- ◆ Healthcare disparities
- ◆ Performance measurement
- ◆ Quality improvement
- ◆ Purchaser perspective

Potential TEP members should be aware that participation on the TEP is voluntary. Individuals wishing to participate on the TEP should understand that their input will be recorded in the meeting minutes. Proceedings of the TEP will be summarized in a report that is disclosed to the general public. If a participant has disclosed 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. If patient participants (only) wish to keep their names confidential, that request can be accommodated. Any questions about confidentiality will be answered by the TEP organizers.

All potential TEP members must disclose any current and past activities that may pose a potential conflict of interest for performing the tasks required of the TEP. All potential TEP members should be able to commit to the anticipated time frame needed to perform the functions of the TEP.

#### **Patient Nominees:**

CORE is seeking patients aged 65 years and older to participate on a TEP. We are seeking patients with one or more chronic conditions, such as diabetes or heart failure. Patient nominees should submit a completed and signed TEP Nomination Form and letter of interest as described below but are not required to submit a curriculum vitae. If potential patient participants wish to keep their names confidential in public documents, that request can be accommodated. Any questions about confidentiality will be answered by the TEP organizers.

#### ***TEP Expected Time Commitment:***

- ◆ TEP members will need to be available to participate in one or two 1-2 hour teleconferences between May 2015 and September 2015. TEP members will need to review materials provided in advance of the teleconferences.
- ◆ CORE recognizes that TEP members may not be able to attend both meetings, but we expect members to attend at least one meeting and review and comment on materials for any meeting they cannot attend.

**Required Information:**

- ◆ A completed and signed TEP Nomination Form located in the download section below.
  - The TEP Nomination Form includes a consent and confidentiality statement.
- ◆ A letter of interest (not to exceed two pages) highlighting experience/knowledge relevant to the expertise described above and involvement in measure development.
- ◆ Curriculum vitae or a summary of relevant experience for a maximum of 10 pages.
  - Patient participants are not required to submit a curriculum vitae and may elect to keep their names confidential in public documents.

The Nomination Form and proposed TEP Charter are found in the download section below.

If you wish to nominate yourself or other individuals for consideration, please complete the form and email it to: [primarycaremeasures@yale.edu](mailto:primarycaremeasures@yale.edu).