

Technical Expert Panel Overview

Measure and Instrument Development and Support (MIDS), Development of Two Quality Outcomes Measures for Elective Total Hip Arthroplasty and Total Knee Arthroplasty Procedures

Background

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has contracted with Yale New Haven Health Services Corporation/Center for Outcomes Research and Evaluation (CORE) to develop hospital outcomes measures for public reporting that reflect the quality of care for patients undergoing elective total hip arthroplasty (THA) and elective total knee arthroplasty (TKA).

THA and TKA are priority areas for outcomes measure development, as they are commonly performed procedures in the US. Currently, there are approximately 800,000 hip and knee arthroplasty procedures performed annually in the US.¹ Although these procedures dramatically improve health-related quality-of-life, they are costly and there is considerable variation in practice patterns and patient outcomes, indicating a need for quality outcomes measures.

CORE is developing two outcomes measures for Medicare beneficiaries undergoing THA and TKA: (1) a complications measure including surgical and medical complications and death and (2) a 30-day all-cause readmission measure. These measures will serve as indicators of quality of care for Medicare beneficiaries. They are complementary measures that will assess different domains of quality.

CORE has developed preliminary specifications for these measures in collaboration with a small working group of orthopedists and quality measurement experts, and has assembled a national technical expert panel (TEP) to provide broader stakeholder and expert input into measure development.

Approach to Convening the TEP

CORE assembled a TEP by reaching out to potential stakeholders and experts. CORE contacted (via e-mail) appropriate individuals and organizations that were initially identified by Working Group members and CMS. In accordance with CMS' Measure Management System guidelines, CORE recruited members that provided the following areas of expertise and perspectives:

- Topic Knowledge: Orthopedic surgery, Epidemiology, Rehabilitation
- Performance Measurement
- Quality Improvement
- Health Care Disparities
- Consumer Perspective (patient)
- Purchaser Perspective

CMS selected 12 individuals for the TEP from among several nominated members.

Primary Objectives for TEP

¹ Bozic KJ, Rubash HE, Sculco TP, Berry DJ. An analysis of medicare payment policy for total joint arthroplasty. *Journal of Arthroplasty*. 2008;23(6 Suppl 1):133-138.

The TEP is responsible for providing input on the selection, development, and maintenance of the measures and for evaluating the proposed outcomes measures using the National Quality Forum's (NQF) measure evaluation criteria:

- Importance
- Scientific acceptability
- Feasibility
- Usability

All potential TEP members have disclosed any past and/or current activities that may pose a potential conflict of interest for performing the tasks required of the TEP. TEP members have committed to participating in 1-2 meetings via teleconference call, between June-September 2010. CORE will summarize member comments and recommendations in a report which will be publicly available.

Next Steps in Measure Development

CORE will also be posting the proposed THA and TKA measures for public comment this summer. At that time, a TEP Summary Report will be posted publicly along with the proposed measures on the CMS website (specific location to be determined in consultation with Health Services Advisory Group [HSAG]).

The following individuals have been selected to participate in this TEP:

Name	Organization	Location	Area of Expertise
Mark L. Francis, MD	Texas Tech University, Health Sciences Center	El Paso, TX	Health care disparities, outcomes measurement
Cynthia Jacelon, PhD, RN, CRRN	Association of Rehabilitation Nurses	Amherst, MA	Quality improvement
Norman Johanson, MD	Drexel University College of Medicine	Philadelphia, PA	Complex primary and revision surgery, outcomes assessment
C. Kent Kwoh, MD	University of Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh, PA	Outcomes assessment, topic knowledge, health care disparities
Courtland G. Lewis, MD	American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons	Hartford, CT	Topic knowledge
Jay Lieberman, MD	University of Connecticut Health Center, New England Musculoskeletal Institute	Farmington, CT	Topic knowledge, quality measurement
Peter Lindenauer, MD, M.Sc.	Center for Quality of Care Research, Baystate Medical Center	Springfield, MA	Quality improvement, performance measurement
Russell Robbins, MD, MBA	Principal and Senior Clinical Consultant, Mercer's Total Health Management	Norwalk, CT	Medical informatics, purchaser perspective
Barbara Schaffer	Patient	CT	Consumer perspective
Nelson SooHoo, MD, MPH	University of California at Los Angeles	Los Angeles, CA	Measure developer, methodological expertise
Steven H. Stern, MD	Vice President, Network, Cardiology and Neuroscience/Orthopedics, UnitedHealthcare	Chicago, IL	Topic knowledge, purchaser perspective, quality improvement
Richard E. White, Jr., MD	American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons	Albuquerque, NM	Topic knowledge, quality improvement