

Technical Expert Panel Overview

Measure and Instrument Development and Support (MIDS), Development of Two Quality Outcomes Measures for Stroke

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 with stroke.

Stroke is a priority area for outcomes measure development, as it affects approximately 795,000 people each year in the US and is one of the top 20 conditions contributing to Medicare costs. It is the third most common cause of death after heart disease and cancer.¹ Moreover, stroke survivors frequently experience significant disability, which can lead to increased dependency on the health care system and higher subsequent costs associated with this care. Both mortality and physical functioning post-stroke are influenced by the quality of care provided to patients during their initial hospitalization.² For this reason, the development of risk-adjusted measures of patient outcomes can provide a critical perspective on the provision of care, and thus support improvements in care for the stroke population.

CORE is developing two outcomes measures for Medicare beneficiaries with stroke: (1) a 30-day all-cause mortality measures 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 neurologists 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 provide the following areas of expertise and perspectives:

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

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

¹ American Heart Association, Heart Disease and Stroke Statistics - 2009 Update. American Heart Association, 2009: p. 1-36.

² Weir, N.U., et al., Variations between countries in outcome after stroke in the International Stroke Trial (IST). Stroke, 2001. 32(6): p. 1370-7.

Primary Objectives for TEP

The TEP is responsible for providing expert input on the selection, development, and maintenance of the measures and for evaluating the proposed outcomes measures based on 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 stroke measures for public comment this summer. At that time, the 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	Title	Organization	MMS Category
Joseph V. Agostini, M.D.	Medical Director	Aetna	Purchaser
Mark J. Alberts, M.D.	Professor of Neurology; Director, Stroke Program	Northwestern University Feinburg School of Medicine	Topic Knowledge
William Bloom	N/A	N/A - Stroke Survivor	Consumer
Mary George, M.D., M.S.P.H.	Medical Officer, Division for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	Performance Management
Robert Holloway, M.D., M.P.H.	Professor of Neurology	University of Rochester Medical Center	Performance Measurement/ Topic Knowledge
Irene Katzan, M.D., M.S.	Director, Neurological Institute Center for Outcomes Research & Evaluation	Cleveland Clinic	Performance Management
Dawn Kleindorfer, M.D.	Associate Professor	University of Cincinnati	Health Care Disparities/Topic Knowledge
Elaine Miller, Ph.D., R.N.	Professor of Nursing; Editor, Rehabilitation Nursing	Association of Rehabilitation Nurses	Topic Knowledge
Mathew Reeves, Ph.D.	Associate Professor	Michigan State University / P.I. MASCOTS Program (Stroke Registry and Quality Improvement)	Quality Improvement/Topic Knowledge
Joseph Schindler, M.D.	Assistant Professor of Neurology and Neurosurgery; Clinical Director of Stroke Program	Yale New Haven Stroke Center	Topic Knowledge
Kevin Tabb, M.D.	Chief Medical Officer	Stanford Hospital and Clinics	Quality Improvement
Linda Williams, M.D.	Associate Professor of Neurology; Research Coordinator, VA Stroke QUERI	Roudebush VAMC, Indiana University School of Medicine	Quality Improvement