

January 5, 2017

Greetings,

RTI is seeking providers to participate in a pilot study to inform the development of a Transfer of Health Information and Care Preferences (TOH) quality measure. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has contracted with RTI International and Abt Associates to develop and implement two TOH quality measures for Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF), Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility (IRF), Long-Term Care Hospital (LTCH) and Home Health Agency (HHA) settings, in order to meet requirements under the Improving Medicare Post-Acute Care Transformation Act (IMPACT Act) of 2014. As part of the measure development process, RTI, in collaboration with Abt, is pilot testing the TOH measures to investigate data collection methods and time to complete the items, the feasibility of implementing the TOH quality measures, and measure properties.

Agencies and facilities may participate in multiple pilot test activities with different pilot test staff. Agencies and facilities that have been Medicare-certified for at least one year are eligible to participate in the pilot study. No identifiable patient information will be shared with RTI during data collection. No specific provider or patient information will be shared with CMS or the public.

The pilot test data collection will consist of the following activities between January and May, 2017:

1. **Round 1 Telephone Interviews** (January, 2017): to obtain provider input on new assessment items and inform item wording and guidance.
2. **Round 2 Telephone Interviews** (January and February, 2017): to obtain provider input on feasibility and burden of data collection and potential unintended consequences.
3. **Scenario-based Survey** (February-March, 2017): providers will complete short survey using hypothetical patient/resident scenarios.
4. **Pilot Data Collection** (April and May, 2017): providers will complete mock versions of new assessment items based on actual patient/resident records. *This data collection will include a training call and review of training materials, telephone debriefing interviews, and data collection for 6 – 8 mock assessment items for approximately 15-20 patients/residents, between April and May, 2017.*

Results from the TOH pilot study will provide valuable information about the feasibility and experience of collecting and submitting these quality measures. Participation in this pilot test offers you a unique opportunity to contribute to CMS', RTI's, and Abt's ongoing development of the TOH measures. CMS values provider input throughout the measure development process. A full understanding of how TOH data collection might impact and improve patient care is critical to the development of this measure.

RTI requests that you indicate your interest in participating in this opportunity by submitting the enclosed Interest Form to Samantha Clark at sclark@rti.org, preferably by January 17. RTI welcomes Interest Forms received after January 17 and will consider them for the later testing activities.



turning knowledge into practice

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Samantha by email or by phone at (919)541-6227.

Sincerely,

Colene Byrne, PhD.

RTI International Measure Development Lead, Transfer of Health Information and Care Preferences

Lynn Martin, PhD, RPh

Abt Associates Measure Development Lead, Transfer of Health Information and Care Preferences

On behalf of:

Karen Reilly, Sc.D.

RTI International | Director, Performance Measure Development and Implementation Program