

# Draft Clinician Expert Workgroup Charter

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## MACRA Episode-Based Cost Measures: CKD/ESRD Clinician Expert Workgroup

June 2021

### Project Title:

MACRA Episode-Based Cost Measures – Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) and End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Clinician Expert Workgroup

### Workgroup Expected Time Commitment and Dates:

The nomination period for the CKD/ESRD Clinician Expert Workgroup (hereafter “workgroup”) opens on **June 21, 2021**, and closes on **July 16, 2021, at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time**. Please submit all nomination materials before the closing date.

Members who submit their nomination materials by the deadline and who are accepted to the workgroups will attend 2 virtual meetings to be held via webinar.

- The first meeting will be a part-day webinar held in August or September 2021 to provide initial input on each component of the episode-based cost measure.
- The second meeting is expected to be a 2-4 hour webinar held in February or March 2022.

### Project Overview:

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has contracted with Acumen, LLC, to develop episode-based cost measures for potential use in the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) to meet the requirements of the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA). The contract name is “Physician Cost Measures and Patient Relationship Codes (PCMP).” The contract number is 75FCMC18D0015, Task Order 75FCMC19F0004. As part of its measure development process, Acumen convenes groups of stakeholders and experts who contribute direction and thoughtful input during cost measure development and maintenance.

### Project Objectives:

The project’s overall objective is to develop episode-based cost measures suitable for potential use in the Quality Payment Program. For more details about the project background, including development activities undertaken in previous years, please see [this summary](#) on the [MACRA Feedback Page](#).

### Workgroup Objectives:

Acumen’s measure development approach for MIPS cost measures has been to convene clinician expert panels called Clinical Subcommittees and workgroups focused on particular clinical areas in cycles of development. This workgroup will contribute to the specification of a CKD/ESRD episode-based cost measures for potential future use in MIPS.

The workgroup will include approximately 15 to 20 members whose clinical specialty, expertise, or experience includes the treatment and management of CKD or ESRD.

The objectives include, but are not limited to, providing input on the following:

- Episode group trigger codes
- Services that should be included in the episode-based cost measure
- Risk adjustment variables
- Measure exclusion criteria

The nomination period for these workgroups closes on July 16, 2021.

## **Workgroup Requirements:**

Comprising approximately 15 to 20 individuals, the workgroup will provide clinical input and advice to the measure development contractor on the specifications and development of the measures. The workgroups will be composed of individuals with differing areas of expertise and perspectives, including the following:

- Clinical experts (e.g., physicians, osteopathic practitioners, chiropractors, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, certified registered nurse anesthetists, physical therapists, occupational therapists, qualified speech-language pathologists, qualified audiologists, clinical psychologists, registered dietitians or nutrition professionals, and other clinicians with experience in the clinical area) who have experience treating patients with CKD or ESRD
- Individuals with medical credentials relevant to the types of clinicians listed above
- Individuals with familiarity with medical coding (International Classification of Diseases – 10th Revision [ICD-10], Current Procedural Terminology / Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System [CPT/HCPCS], Medicare Severity-Diagnosis Related Groups [MS-DRG])
- Individuals who are board-certified or have other professional certifications, as applicable

## **Scope of Responsibilities:**

The role of the workgroups is to provide clinical input and advice to the measure development contractor on the clinical specifications and development of episode-based cost measures suitable for potential use in the Quality Payment Program.

## **Guiding Principles:**

Participation as a workgroup member is voluntary and the participants' input will be recorded in the meeting minutes, which will be summarized in a report that may be disclosed to the public. In addition, project staff from CMS may attend the workgroup meetings. If a participant has chosen to disclose private, personal data, then related material and communications are not deemed to be covered by patient-provider confidentiality. Patient/caregiver participants may elect to keep their names confidential in public documents. Acumen will answer any questions about confidentiality.

All potential workgroup members must disclose any significant financial interest or other relationships that may influence their perceptions or judgment. It is unethical to conceal (or fail to disclose) conflicts of interest. The intent of full disclosure is to inform the measure developer,

other workgroup members, and CMS about the source of workgroup members' perspectives and how that might affect discussions or recommendations.

All 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 workgroup members will be considered by the measure development contractor. Workgroup 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 workgroup are expected to attend the following meetings and perform the following tasks:

- Review preparatory materials shared ahead of each meeting and complete a pre-meeting survey, if applicable (estimated time between 2 and 4 hours)
- Attend and participate in a part-day virtual meeting in late August/early September 2021 and a 2-4 hour virtual meeting in late February/early March 2022 (exact dates and times will be determined taking into consideration factors such as project timelines and workgroup member availability)

### **Date Approved by Workgroup:**

To be approved by each workgroup during their first meeting.

### **Workgroup Membership:**

N/A – Draft Charter