

Technical Expert Panel Charter

Project Title:

Development and Reevaluation of Outpatient Imaging Efficiency Measures

Dates:

March 2015 through September 2018

2 to 3 meetings annually by teleconference

Project Overview:

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has contracted with Yale New Haven Health Services Corporation Center for Outcomes Research and Evaluation (CORE), and its partner the Lewin Group, to develop and maintain outpatient imaging efficiency (OIE) measures for the CMS outpatient quality reporting programs that support CMS and National Quality Strategy objectives. Under subcontract to CORE, the Lewin Group is conducting a reevaluation of the OIE measures currently reported in the Hospital Outpatient Quality Reporting (HOQR) Program and expanding at least one existing OIE measure into an additional CMS program. CORE/Lewin is seeking to convene a technical expert panel (TEP) consisting of stakeholders and experts to contribute direction, technical input, and diverse perspectives to the measure reevaluation and expansion work. The intent of the OIE measures is to promote high-quality, efficient care in the area of imaging. Specifically, each measure aims to reduce unnecessary exposure to testing or treatment that risk downstream patient harm, ensure adherence to evidence-based medicine and practice guidelines, and promote efficiency by reducing waste.

Project Objectives:

The project's primary objectives, as they relate to this TEP, include:

- Reevaluating previously developed hospital OIE measures currently reported as part of the HOQR program by CMS. This includes monitoring each measure's validity and effectiveness and recommending improvements as needed. Previously developed measures include:
 - OP-8: MRI Lumbar Spine for Low Back Pain
 - OP-9: Mammography Follow-up Rates
 - OP-10: Abdomen CT – Use of Contrast Material
 - OP-11: Thorax CT – Use of Contrast Materials

- OP-13: Cardiac Imaging for Preoperative Risk Assessment for Non-Cardiac, Low-Risk Surgery
- OP-14: Simultaneous Use of Brain CT and Sinus CT
- OP-15: Use of Brain CT in the Emergency Department for Atraumatic Headache
- The expansion of at least one OIE measure for application to a new care setting and other accountability program.

TEP Objectives:

The objective of the OIE TEP is to provide feedback and perspective on the specification, testing, reevaluation, and expansion of OIE measures for CMS's quality reporting programs.

As part of its measure development process, CMS requests input from a broad group of stakeholders that may include patients, caregivers, and consumer advocates; clinicians or other caregivers with subject matter expertise, including cardiology, emergency medicine, neurology, oncology, orthopedics, primary care, and radiology; informaticists, epidemiologists, methodologists, and other experts in measurement science; health system and hospital representatives; payers; healthcare purchasers; and disparities experts. A well-balanced representation of stakeholders on the TEP will help to ensure the consideration of key perspectives in the measure selection, development, respecification, and maintenance processes.

Scope of Responsibilities:

The TEP will advise CORE/Lewin on the reevaluation and expansion of existing OIE measures. The TEP will be asked for input and feedback on areas of measure importance, scientific acceptability, feasibility, usability and use, and harmonization. The TEP's specific duties include the following:

- Participating in 2-3 TEP teleconference meetings per year
- Reviewing and providing feedback on the comprehensive reevaluation/measure testing of existing measures
- Advising the project team on OIE measure expansion

TEP members will be asked to review meeting materials prior to meetings. Additionally, TEP members may be called upon periodically to review information and provide comments between meetings.

Guiding Principles:

CORE/Lewin will use the following criteria to assess measures undergoing comprehensive reevaluation and measure expansion:

- Relevance and importance to patients
- Program appropriateness
- Evidence of importance and opportunity for improvement
- Feasibility, usability and use, scientific acceptability, and harmonization of measures
- Existence of competing measures

The TEP will provide input throughout the measure reevaluation and expansion processes. The project team will consider the TEP's recommendations and will convey those recommendations to CMS. The project team will complete a summary report of TEP proceedings following meetings to highlight discussions and document recommendations.

The project team will ensure confidentiality in TEP reports by summarizing decision topics, and removing names of TEP members who make specific comments during meetings.

Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings:

Members of the TEP will meet up to three times per year via teleconference. Typical TEP teleconference meetings last between one and two hours. This project is anticipated to continue through September 2018.

TEP Membership:

The TEP will consist of 12 to 15 members, with diverse perspectives on quality measurement. We seek members representing the following:

- Patients and caregivers
- Consumer advocates
- Clinicians or other caregivers with subject matter expertise, including cardiology, emergency medicine, neurology, oncology, orthopedics, primary care, and radiology
- Informaticists, epidemiologists, methodologists, and other experts in measurement science
- Health system and hospital representatives
- Payers
- Healthcare purchasers
- Healthcare disparities experts