

Call for Public Comment

Project overview:

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has contracted with Arbor Research/UM-KECC to develop a 30-day hospital readmission measure and anemia management measures for the ESRD population. The purpose of the project is to develop quality measures that can be used to promote the delivery of high quality care to Medicare beneficiaries with ESRD. The public comment period provides an opportunity for the widest array of interested parties to provide input on the measures under development and can provide important suggestions not previously considered by the measure contractor or its technical expert panels (TEPs).

The following draft measures were developed under this project, and are now posted for public comment:

- Anemia of chronic kidney disease: Patient informed consent for ESA treatment
- Anemia of chronic kidney disease: Dialysis facility ESA management to avoid transfusion
- Anemia of chronic kidney disease: Dialysis facility standardized transfusion ratio
- Anemia management of chronic kidney disease: Hgb > 12 g/dL
- Anemia of chronic kidney disease: Hgb < 10 g/dl
- Standardized 30-day readmission ratio for dialysis facilities

Specific project objectives: The goal of this project is to develop and implement measures that will be used to assess and improve the quality of care for Americans with ESRD.

The development process includes:

- ◆ Identifying important quality goals related to anemia management and hospital readmissions
- ◆ Conducting literature reviews and grading evidence
- ◆ Defining and developing specifications for each quality measure
- ◆ Obtaining evaluation of proposed measures by technical expert panels
- ◆ Posting for public comment
- ◆ Testing measures for reliability, validity, and feasibility

Details about the measure development process can be found in the Measures Management System Blueprint at.

https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/MMS/index.html?redirect=/MMS/19_MeasuresManagementSystemBlueprint.asp.

To provide public comments, note the following:

- ◆ The public is encouraged to submit general comments on the entire measure set or comments specific to certain measures.
- ◆ At the end of the public comment period, all public comments will be posted on the Web site.
- ◆ Do not include personal health information in your comments.

To inform your comments, you can review:

- The measure specifications for the measure in the Measure Information Form (MIF) and the Measure Justification Form (MJF)
- The comments provided by the TEP during our two TEP meetings in the TEP Summary Report.
<https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/MMS/TechnicalExpertPanels.html>

Instructions for Providing Comments:

- ◆ If you are providing comments on behalf of an organization, include the organization's name and your contact information.
- ◆ If you are commenting as an individual, submit identifying or contact information.

- ◆ Please identify the measures for which you are providing comments. You may submit general comments on the entire set of measures or you may provide comments specific to individual measures.
- ◆ Email your comments to: ESRD_Quality_Measures@ArborResearch.org. Comments are due by close of business April 18, 2013.
- ◆ At the end of the public comment period, all public comments will be posted on the CMS Web site -. https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/MMS/index.html?redirect=/MMS/17_CallforPublicComment.asp.