

# Technical Expert Panel Charter

## **Project Title:**

Development and Implementation of Quality Rating System (QRS) Measures for Qualified Health Plans (QHPs)

## **Project Technical Expert Panel (TEP) Dates:**

November 2015–September 2017

## **Project Overview:**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has contracted with IMPAQ International, LLC, to develop quality measures for Qualified Health Plans (QHPs) operating in the Health Insurance Marketplace (or Exchanges). The contract name is Development and Implementation of Quality Rating System (QRS) Measures for Qualified Health Plans (QHPs). The contract number is #HHSM-500-2013-13009I; Task Order #HHSM-500-T0001). The overarching purpose of the project is to develop a set of measures that can be used to evaluate QHPs operating in the Exchanges and provide consumers with timely and comparative information on QHPs for their choice of insurer. As part of its measure development process, CMS asks measure developers to convene groups of stakeholders and experts who contribute direction and thoughtful input to the measure developer during measure development and maintenance. Health Services Advisory Group, Inc. (HSAG), as subcontractor to IMPAQ, will convene the TEP.

## **Project Objectives:**

The primary objectives of this project include:

- ◆ Assess the landscape of current measures, measure development priorities, and priority gaps for QHPs.
- ◆ Identify priority measure concepts for new measure development.
- ◆ Recommend any existing measures that can be adapted to plan-level analysis for this project.
- ◆ Develop new measures or adapt existing measures for QHPs.
- ◆ Test new or adapted measures at the QHP level of analysis.
- ◆ Submit new measures to a consensus-based entity for endorsement (e.g., National Quality Forum) if necessary.
- ◆ Provide maintenance and reevaluation technical support to ensure that the measures in the QRS have the most up-to-date and evidence-based specifications.

## **TEP Objectives:**

Convening the TEP is one important step in the measure development process that ensures transparency and provides an opportunity to obtain balanced input from multiple stakeholders.

## **Scope of Responsibilities:**

The TEP's core duties include the following:

- ◆ Provide guidance on the development of new measures, including key topics such as testing results, risk-adjustment methodology, and public comments; and
- ◆ Provide guidance on measure reevaluation related to issues such as new scientific evidence, past measure performance, and harmonization of related measures.

## **Guiding Principles:**

The requirements in section 3013 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) of 2010, as well as the priorities outlined in the National Quality Strategy (NQS) and the CMS Quality Strategy, the

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CMS Measures Management System (MMS) Blueprint, and the NQF measure evaluation criteria, will guide the measure development process in this project.

The project team will use the CMS measure selection criteria included in the MMS Blueprint, the NQF measure evaluation criteria, and the business case for each measure to identify measure concepts for review by the TEP. For selecting and prioritizing the measure concepts, the TEP will be asked as they review and evaluate measure concepts whether the concepts or measures meet the following criteria:

- ◆ Are responsive to specific program goals and statutory requirements
- ◆ Address an important condition/topic with a performance gap
- ◆ Have strong scientific evidence to demonstrate that the measure, when implemented, will lead to the desired outcome
- ◆ Address one or more of the six NQS priorities
- ◆ Promote alignment across U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) programs;
- ◆ Identify opportunities for improvement
- ◆ Are patient-centered and relevant to and understood by consumers
- ◆ Are scientifically acceptable (reliable and valid), feasible, and usable for accountability and performance improvement
- ◆ Do not result in negative unintended consequences
- ◆ Are harmonized and not in competition with existing measures.

The project team will complete summary reports of TEP proceedings to highlight discussions and document decisions. In addition, the project team will summarize the TEP's recommendations and present them to CMS for use in the decision-making process concerning measure prioritization, development, and testing.

## **Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings:**

- ◆ TEP members will provide input throughout the measure development process. To facilitate this level of involvement, members need to be available from November 2015 through September 2017.
- ◆ There will be up to eight Web conferences of the full TEP panel during the 2-year period.
- ◆ The first TEP Web meeting is anticipated to be 2 hours in length and is planned for the first quarter of 2016.
- ◆ Subsequent meetings will be 1 to 2 hours each and are tentatively scheduled in May, July, and September of 2016.
- ◆ Dates for future meetings will be determined based on measure development and testing progress.
- ◆ In addition to the full TEP meetings, measure work groups will be convened to develop specifications and review testing results for new measures. Each TEP member will need to be available to participate in one or more measure work groups, based on the member's expertise/interest.
- ◆ There will be between four and six measure work group teleconferences per measure, 1 hour each.
- ◆ TEP members will review meeting materials in advance of each meeting.

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**Date Charter Approved by TEP:**

TBD

**TEP Membership:**

TBD

*This material was prepared by HSAG, a Measure & Instrument Development and Support Subcontractor for the Development and Implementation of Quality Rating System (QRS) Measures for Qualified Health Plans (QHPs) Task Order, under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.*