

Technical Expert Panel (TEP) Charter

Project Title:

Development of Measure to Assess Accountable Care Organizations' (ACOs) Year-to-Year Improvement in Acute Admission Rates

Dates:

Yale New Haven Health Services Corporation – Center for Outcomes Research and Evaluation (CORE) anticipates holding one to two teleconference meetings between May 2015 and September 2015. Teleconference meetings will last between one to two hours.

Project Overview:

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is developing a novel methodology to assess year-to-year improvement in three ACO risk-adjusted outcome measures. CORE is leading the work under contract to CMS. As part of its measure development process, CMS/CORE is convening a panel of stakeholders and experts to contribute to measure development.

CMS/CORE previously developed three ACO risk-adjusted acute admission measures that CMS has added to the Shared Savings Program measure set. The three measures evaluate how each ACO's acute admission rate for patients with diabetes, heart failure, and multiple chronic conditions compare to what would be expected given the rates for other providers with similar patients. In other words, the three measures assess each ACO's performance relative to that of other providers. Hence, if all providers lower their rates substantially from one year to the next but one ACO lowers its rate less than average, the ACO will look worse on these measures of relative performance in the second year even though it is improving. The ACO improvement measure under development, in contrast, will assess whether each individual ACO improved its acute admission rate, independent of other providers' progress.

Project Objectives:

- ◆ The primary goal of this project is to develop an administrative claims-based, risk-adjusted improvement measure to assess ACO-level year-over-year improvement in the rate of acute, unplanned admissions.

TEP Objectives:

The TEP is a group of stakeholders and experts who provide input on the development of the measure for which the contractor is responsible. Convening a national TEP ensures transparency

and helps measure developers obtain balanced input from multiple stakeholders. TEP members are chosen to provide input based on their personal experience and training or organizational perspective, and to represent a diversity of perspectives and backgrounds.

Scope of Responsibilities:

Specific responsibilities of TEP members will be to:

- ◆ Complete and submit all nomination materials, including the TEP Nomination Form, letter of interest, disclosure of conflicts of interests, and curriculum vitae
- ◆ Review background materials provided by CORE prior to each TEP meeting
- ◆ Attend and actively participate in the TEP webinar(s)
- ◆ Provide input and feedback to CORE on key methodological decisions
- ◆ Provide feedback to CORE on key policy or other non-technical issues
- ◆ Review the TEP summary report prior to public release
- ◆ Be available to discuss recommendations following submission of the measure to CMS

CORE recognizes that TEP members may not be able to attend both meetings, but we expect members to attend at least one meeting and review and comment on materials for any meeting they cannot attend. We will provide meeting agendas and background materials to TEP members prior to each meeting. We will summarize member comments and recommendations in a publicly available report.

Guiding Principles:

The National Quality Forum's (NQF's) measure evaluation criteria will guide CORE's work. CORE will brief the TEP on these guiding principles for measure development to support the TEP's application of these measure evaluation criteria. CORE will focus the TEP discussions on measure design decisions that are most important. However, measure developers encourage the TEP to provide input on any or all of the measure components as part of the TEP's deliberations. Consensus decisions will inform the completion of the NQF endorsement application following the meetings.

The list of individuals included on the TEP will be made public. However, potential patient participants will be given the option to keep their participation on the TEP confidential in public documents.

CORE will ensure confidentiality in the publicly posted TEP reports by summarizing discussion topics and removing the names of TEP members who make specific comments during the meetings. If a participant has disclosed private, personal data by his or her own choice, then that material and those communications are not subject to confidentiality laws. CORE will answer any questions about confidentiality.

Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings:

CORE anticipates holding one to two teleconference meetings between May 2015 and September 2015. Teleconference meetings will last between one to two hours.

Date Approved by TEP:

TBD

TEP Membership:

TBD