Improving Healthcare Quality through Standardization and Innovation

Presented by
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Building a Transparent Health Care System: Cornerstones of Value-Based Health Care

**Quality Standards**
Design systems to collect quality of care information and define what constitutes quality health care.

**Price Standards**
Aggregate claims information to enable cost comparisons between specific doctors and hospitals.

**Interoperability**
Set common technical standards for quick and secure communication and data exchange.

**Incentives**
Reward those who provide and purchase high-quality and competitively priced health care.
American Health Information Community

How will we accelerate the development and adoption of health IT?

How will we deliver value to the health care consumer?

Office of the National Coordinator / National Health Information Infrastructure

How will we build a nationwide health IT system that allows the seamless and secure exchange and records?

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

How will providers use health IT in hospitals and ambulatory care settings to improve quality of health care and patient safety?
AQA Pilot Projects: Better Quality Information

- Ambulatory Care Quality Alliance project designed to increase the transparency of health care quality information
- Supported by funding from CMS and AHRQ
- Last year, AQA, founded in 2004, endorsed a starter set of 26 standard performance measures that are now being incorporated around the country
AQA Pilot Projects: Better Quality Information

- Will, for first time, combine public and private information to measure and report on physician practice
- Will identify high quality providers who deliver appropriate care to patients while avoiding unnecessary complications and costs
- When AQA pilot is completed, the health care system will have effective models for providing consumers with meaningful information that can be used to make informed choices about which providers will meet their needs
6 AQA Pilot Sites

- Massachusetts Health Quality Partners
- Indiana Health Information Exchange
- Wisconsin Collaborative for Healthcare Quality
- Minnesota Community Measurement
- California Cooperative Healthcare Reporting Initiative
- Phoenix Regional Healthcare Value Measurement Initiative

The map shows the locations of these pilot sites across the United States.
Better Quality Information for Improvement and Decision-Making

Name
- AQA Pilot Projects
- Better Quality Information Project (BQI)

Parties
- CMS, AHRQ
- Delmarva, RTI
- Pilot Sites
- OS, CMS, AHRQ
- Delmarva, RTI
- Collaboratives – Data Aggregators and Report Generators

Scope
- Ambulatory cost and quality measures
- Ambulatory and hospital cost and quality measures

Feedback Loop
- AQA Steering Committee
- AQA Working Groups
- AQA / HQA Steering Committee
- AQA Working Groups
Better Quality Information
Draft Data Flow for Existing Pilot Collaboratives

Private Payers

Providers

CMS

Data Aggregator (QIO Subcontractor)

Report Generator (QIO Subcontractor)

Two Reports

1. Individual physician feedback output data file
2. Public use output data file

Individual Physician

CMS for Public Posting on Community website

Private Payers

Clinical Data

Claims Data

Providers

Claims Data

Clinical Data

CMS

Claims Data (Pursuant to QIO Contract)
Hospital Quality Alliance

- HQA: Improving Care Through Information, a public-private collaboration to improve the quality of care in U.S. hospitals by measuring and publicly reporting care
- Includes CMS, AHA, Federation of American Hospitals, and AAMC
- Supported by AHRQ, NQF, JCAHO, AMA, American Nurses Association, National Assoc. of Children’s Hospitals, Consumer Purchase Disclosure Project, AARP, AFL-CIO and U.S. Chamber of Commerce
Hospital Quality Alliance

- Hospital Compare website started on April 1, 2005
- 20 measures reported on Hospital Compare include 10 starter set measures and additional measures for voluntary reporting by hospitals, with additional measures to come.
- Ultimate goal: All hospitals will report to this set of measures, and measures will be accepted by all purchasers, oversight and accrediting entities, payers and providers
Quality Alliance Steering Committee

- Formed in July between the AQA and the Hospital Quality Alliance
- Tasked to improve the coordination and promotion of quality measurement, transparency and improvement of care
- First step: Coordinate and expand 6 pilot sites to include hospital and cost-of-care measures
- Also identify opportunities to expand and refine existing measures
- Will work closely with AHRQ and CMS
Opportunity: P4P Incentives

- Growing number of incentive programs to reward improvement in quality and safety performance
- P4P may provide new revenue stream to enable purchase of health IT systems
- Without electronic records, providers may not be able to participate in P4P contracts
Placing too much faith in technology, skeptics warn, could be counterproductive. Dr. David Himmelstein, a physician and associate professor at Harvard Medical School, said, “It encourages the belief that we don’t need real reform, all we need is computers.”

*New York Times, August 20, 2006*
Agenda for Advancement

- Tap and collect ongoing resources
- Convince clinicians to buy in
- Understand existing workflow
- Understand health IT impact on workflow
- Integrate data standards
- Have vendors make required changes
Reengineer Processes to Improve Patient Safety

- As we migrate to a health information technology infrastructure, put effective processes in place at the same time
- Augment health IT applications for error reduction, CPOE, and other clinical decision support tools
- Build in the necessary disciplines and team approaches
Your questions?