

**National Regional Implementation (NRI) Workgroup**

Thursday, February 19, 3-4pm EST  
888-870-8270, passcode: 202 797 6281

AGENDA

- |  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. Introductions                                       | Jim Chase, Shannon Robshaw |
| 2. Resource guide (see attached)                       | Niall Brennan              |
| 3. Communication channels discussion<br>(see attached) | Min Gayles Kim             |
| 4. Wrap-up   | Jim Chase, Shannon Robshaw |

### Resource Guide: Draft Table of Contents

As discussed in the NRI work group's 2009 work plan, one of the work group's initial objectives is to develop a resource guide for regional collaboratives so that the collaboratives may have a central reference for many of the key questions they face. It is intended that the resource guide be useful both to new collaboratives in their initial stages of implementation and to more established collaboratives seeking to sustain and refine their efforts. Some of the key questions the guide should address include:

1. What are the most efficient strategies for collaboratives to aggregate data across payers or integrate clinical and administrative data into one database?
2. What are the key considerations a collaborative should weigh when selecting measures to calculate and report?
3. Which key stakeholders need to be involved in the collaborative's leadership to ensure the collaborative's long-term productivity?
4. What financing alternatives have collaboratives relied on historically to sustain their efforts over time? What alternatives may be available to collaboratives today?
5. What level of engagement is necessary among consumers to sustain a collaborative's efforts, and what are the best ways to promote that engagement?
6. How should a collaborative use performance data for data-driven applications (e.g., public reporting, quality improvement initiatives, provider and consumer incentives for quality)? What are the most effective ways for a collaborative to identify its short-term and long-term strategic priorities in this area?
7. How have other collaboratives built on existing infrastructure and initiatives/strategies to organize and coordinate a regional collaborative, particularly with respect to health information technology?
8. What strategies have other collaboratives used to approach CMS regarding the use of Medicare data, and, if successful, what benefits have they realized by using the data? What other national data sources have regional collaboratives used or merged with their own local datasets successfully?

To a large extent, these and other key questions have been addressed in publications that have been produced or are in production by AHRQ, the Network for Regional Healthcare Improvement (NRHI), and other organizations. As such, our first goal in generating the comprehensive resource guide for regional healthcare collaboratives is ensuring that we have captured these extant resources and referred to them in the document. We provide an overview of the resources we have identified thus far in the draft Table of Contents below. We will seek the input of the NRI work group to assist in the identification of other resources that should be included in this document going forward.

## Resource Guide – Draft Table of Contents

<p>1. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) <a href="http://www.ahrq.gov">www.ahrq.gov</a></p>	<p>AHRQ has developed and continues to develop numerous products intended to address gaps identified by the Chartered Value Exchanges (CVEs). Among the resources currently available on AHRQ’s website (<a href="http://www.ahrq.gov/qual/value/localnetworks.htm">http://www.ahrq.gov/qual/value/localnetworks.htm</a>) are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decision guide on Pay for Performance</li> <li>• Review on provider incentives</li> <li>• Decision guide on consumer incentives</li> <li>• Review on tiering and benefit design</li> <li>• Best practices in public reporting</li> </ul> <p>Several additional resources are scheduled to be posted on the AHRQ website within the next few months.</p>
<p>2. Network for Regional Healthcare Improvement (NRHI) <a href="http://www.nrhi.org">www.nrhi.org</a></p>	<p>NRHI provides technical assistance to regional collaboratives and facilitates knowledge-sharing between them. Through these activities NRHI has developed resources and expertise in many areas of interest to regional collaboratives, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Options for payment reform</li> <li>• Keys to a regional collaborative’s successful start-up</li> <li>• Reviews of key issues related to data aggregation, public reporting, and driving quality improvement</li> <li>• Opportunities for regional collaboratives to coordinate efforts with national quality improvement organizations</li> </ul>
<p>3. Regional Collaborative Performance Measurement and Reporting Surveys (MARS) collected by The Brookings Institution</p>	<p>The Brookings Institution has compiled information gathered from surveys of more than 30 regional collaboratives and will release a report of findings within the next few months. This information can be very useful from the perspective of knowledge-sharing and networking among regional collaboratives as well as for identifying common challenges and solutions across them.</p>
<p>4. National Business Coalition on Health (NBCH) <a href="http://www.nbch.org">www.nbch.org</a></p>	<p>NBCH supports its member employer-based health coalitions and the public at large in their efforts to make value-based health care purchasing decisions by developing resources for these groups. The resources include an overview of provider incentive models, including pay-for-performance and “Bridges to Excellence,” and an extensive list of links to the websites of other purchaser groups, quality and information resources, and patient safety organizations, among others.</p>
<p>5. National Business Group on Health (NBGH) <a href="http://www.wbgh.org">www.wbgh.org</a></p>	<p>NBGH offers many products and issue briefs to their large employer stakeholders and other groups seeking to drive higher value in the health care they purchase. These resources include a guide to addressing the high cost of health care to employers, discussions of the importance of evidence-based medicine in driving quality in health care, and an issue brief discussing how to engage the public in this effort more broadly.</p>

## National – Regional Communication Opportunities (Workplan Deliverable 2)

The NRI Workgroup seeks to better align national and regional health care performance measure implementation and quality improvement efforts to maximize their collective impact. To that end, the NRI workgroup with support of Brookings staff will work to establish effective communication channels between regional and national organizations.

Staff compiled a list of events and resources through which information sharing on activities of regional and national organization might occur.

- Are we missing any key events/meetings?
  - Does the workgroup have any thoughts on who (individuals, groups) should be the voice on behalf of regional organizations? Is such designation even needed?
1. CVE Learning Network Website/AF4Q Learning Community Meetings: how to get AF4Q/CVE efforts in a more consistent and effective feedback loop to national level?
    - Jim Chase / Shannon Robshaw via QASC?
    - Other?
  2. QASC Meetings: Quarterly
  3. QASC website:
    - Share meeting summaries
    - Provide links to collaboratives and national organizations
    - “Resource guide”
    - Post summaries of recent regional collaborative activities and/or successes.
    - QASC-sponsored “e-newsletter”?
  4. AHRQ Initiatives
    - National Quality Measures Clearinghouse (NQMC): provides a repository of evidence-based measures and stratifies by measure domain, disease/treatment, and also by NQF-endorsement status
    - *The CAHPS Connection*: occasional bulletin designed to keep members of the CAHPS User Network informed about CAHPS products and services.
    - AHRQ Quality Indicators Learning Institute - [QualityIndicatorsLearning@ahrq.hhs.gov](mailto:QualityIndicatorsLearning@ahrq.hhs.gov) (for membership questions)
      - i. AHRQ Quality Indicators support contact: [support@qualityindicators.ahrq.gov](mailto:support@qualityindicators.ahrq.gov); (888) 512 – 6090
      - ii. Email listserv sign-up: [listserv@qualityindicators.ahrq.gov](mailto:listserv@qualityindicators.ahrq.gov).
  5. CMS Initiatives
    - Provide *CMS Highlights* updates, e.g., nursing home compare implementing five star rating system
    - [Physician Quality Reporting Initiative \(PQRI\) Email Updates:](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI/) <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI/>

- Receive [Email Updates](https://subscriptions.cms.hhs.gov/service/multi_subscribe.html?code=USCMS&custom_id=566) on CMS topics of interest to you:  
[https://subscriptions.cms.hhs.gov/service/multi\\_subscribe.html?code=USCMS&custom\\_id=566](https://subscriptions.cms.hhs.gov/service/multi_subscribe.html?code=USCMS&custom_id=566)

6. Other DHHS Initiatives

- Value-Driven Health Care – Better Quality Information Project

7. NQF initiatives – what is of interest to NRI Workgroup?

- Emerging national standards regarding IT?
- New endorsed measures?
- Measure submission guidelines, etc?

8. NRHI Learning Group