

Quality Alliance Steering Committee, Measures Implementation Strategy Work Group
June 1, 2009 – Conference Call Notes

The following is a high-level review of the discussion points that were touched upon during the MIS Workgroup's conference call on Monday, June 1.

Workgroup co-chair Lew Sandy welcomed participants to the call. He acknowledged that co-chair Paul Tang would be unable to participate.

Update on AHIPF data aggregation effort

1. Aparna Higgins of AHIP provided a brief overview of recent efforts and activities related to the data aggregation project. Discussions have begun with health plans in both pilot states, Florida and Colorado, with multiple plans in each state already engaged and reviewing the technical specifications for the pilot efforts. AHIPF staff and AHIPF's contractor are also in the process of testing various software components that these piloting health plans and physicians will use. Aparna also reviewed briefly the kinds of measures and analyses that will be conducted through this effort.
2. In response to a more specific question from a workgroup member, Aparna noted that among the software components currently in development or under review are the physician portal software, the physician report specifications, and the consumer interface, which will be reviewed by the AHIP Data Oversight Workgroup.
3. In response to a question regarding methodologies for physician attribution of patients, Aparna noted that while physicians will not be able to access the raw data files used in determining to which physician a given patient is attributed, the methodologies themselves will be accessible through the physician portal as will the identifying information of the patients attributed to them.

Walk-through of the QASC 3-year workplan

1. Joachim Roski of Brookings walked through the latest version of the draft 3-year workplan slides that will be presented formally to the QASC on June 19. As Joachim explained, this document's purpose is to lay out a plan for progress over the next three years as efforts are coordinated and implemented to support making quality and cost measures more widely available and useful nationwide. Because of the scope and detail of this presentation, Joachim asked the workgroup for their impressions of the presentation's clarity of strategic focus, areas where more or less detail might be warranted, opportunities to incorporate new examples or ideas being discussed that have not yet been incorporated, or ways to discuss the proposed pilot efforts in a more compelling way.
2. Workgroup members offered a few suggestions and comments related to clarifying the presentation's high-level themes and the consistency of the presentation's flow from general strategy to tactical plans.
3. One workgroup member highlighted a particular concern that the models proposed in the presentation largely build on today's administrative claims distribution model though some have raised that claims are not always the most valid representations of care when

used for quality or resource use measurement. Joachim indicated that the intent here was not to think of the administrative claims model as limiting but rather as a starting point over the next three years – it is hoped that other more complete and more valid data will be integrated into the model over time.

4. In response to a question from a workgroup member, Joachim noted that after the final version of these slides has been approved, he and others at Brookings would develop a white paper that explains the content of the presentation in a more complete and narrative-style structure.

Registries as a source of clinical data

1. Mark Legnini of Brookings provided a brief overview of ongoing efforts between QASC staff and the American Heart Association in exploring the role of registries in the models of the QASC 3-year workplan and in other areas. He focused his discussion on a collection of draft slides that are intended to demonstrate how the needs of the emerging clinical data sharing structures could be met by registries and how the registries of today might evolve to serve these purposes. These slides as well as a larger, more detailed slide deck will also be presented to the QASC on June 19.
2. One workgroup member noted that his impression of registries was that they were principally static structures where as the emerging data sharing structures will require dynamic models that compile multiple different types of data over extended periods of time. Mark agreed with this view of registries and indicated that it was the intent of these slides to highlight these distinctions among several others that many registries will need to address in the developing world of HIT.