

National-Regional Implementation Workgroup Conference Call Notes
August 10, 2009

The following is a high-level review of the discussion points that were touched upon during our August 10 National-Regional Implementation (NRI) Workgroup conference call.

Review current draft of “Unmet Needs Memo”

- Min Gayles Kim of Brookings provided an overview of the progress made in recent months to refine and expand the memo. In particular, QASC/Brookings staff have worked to
 1. Refine the language describing the five key unmet needs identified through the MARS survey and through discussions with NRI workgroup members,
 2. Offer recommendations for amending national or local policy or priorities to address these needs, and
 3. Align the content of the memo, including the key contributions and capabilities of regional collaboratives, with the key themes of the QASC 3-Year Workplan as presented to the QASC in June as well as the proposed “Inter-Regional Pilot” to be discussed later on the call.
- Joachim Roski of Brookings identified a few potential opportunities to improve the memo including:
 1. Amend the tone of the document so that it focuses more on ways to “unleash the potential” of regional collaboratives
 2. Illustrate more clearly how the Inter-Regional Pilot could demonstrate the unique capabilities and potential of regional collaboratives to contribute to the national dialogue surrounding performance measurement and quality improvement
- One workgroup member suggested that the language currently expressing the regional collaboratives’ second listed unmet need (“Technological/Methodological Issues with Measurement and Reporting”) implies that there is a problem with the way regional collaboratives adhere to privacy standards. Other language should be used.
- In discussing the memo’s third listed unmet need (“Stakeholder Engagement”), one workgroup member suggested that the two issues of 1) educating consumers on the key components of performance measurement and performance measures and 2) the lack of current measures that identify meaningful differences in the quality of care provided are both equally important and should not be blended into the same bullets.
- In discussing the memo’s fifth listed unmet need (“Regional collaboratives need to more explicitly link quality measurement with quality improvement”), another workgroup member suggested that the language used should express the need to develop the capabilities to tell the stories linking performance measurement to health care quality.
 - One workgroup member pointed out that the document’s “preamble” could also make this point as well as to emphasize the role regional collaboratives can play in these discussions nationally.

Discuss document summarizing proposed Inter-Regional Pilot

- Joachim Roski reviewed briefly the core tenets of the Inter-Regional Pilot as discussed in the document distributed to the workgroup. The pilot is intended to bring together a consortium of innovative sites engaged in performance measurement at varying levels of data collection and aggregation to identify best practices for the measurement enterprise
- One workgroup member cited a similar RWJ-sponsored HIT development grant that seeks to make better connection between measurement and quality improvement. However this pilot as structured would include more sites across different markets to demonstrate comparability of performance results from market to market.
- While one workgroup member wondered if EHR vendors like GE could potentially participate, Dr. Roski indicated that it would be important for participating sites to be closely involved in the care delivery process so as to promote the idea that these measurement practices would be more easily integrated into the usual patterns of care.
- Another workgroup member suggested that if the pilot could be arranged such that cross-sector data collection and aggregation would be a focus, the pilot would be breaking newer ground, as single sector (e.g., ambulatory care setting, inpatient setting) data collection and aggregation is in many areas of the country already ongoing. This would also help to ensure that more of the care provided in a given region were captured through this activity
 - A different workgroup member responded that at the same time, it is an interesting idea that providers representing smaller portions of the area's provision of care could participate in such a pilot.
- Further discussions on this proposed pilot may continue offline to support the document's revision prior to the workgroup's next call in September.