![CQMC — Core Quality Measures Collaborative logo]

Meeting Summary

Measure Model Alignment Web Meeting 4

The National Quality Forum (NQF) convened a web meeting for the Measure Model Alignment Workgroup on January 20, 2022.

Welcome, Roll Call, and Review of Web Meeting Objectives

NQF staff welcomed participants and co-chairs (provider co-chair Dr. Jamie Reedy and payer co-chair Dr. Ranyan Lu) to the Measure Model Alignment Workgroup meeting. A co-chair provided welcoming remarks. NQF staff reviewed the antitrust statement, as well as acknowledging that the Core Quality Measures Collaborative (CQMC) is member-funded effort with additional support from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP).

NQF staff shared that attendance will be verified after the Workgroup meeting. NQF staff reviewed the meeting objectives:
- Review measurement model presentations from Civitas Network for Health and Wisconsin Collaborative for Healthcare Quality (WCHQ)
- Discuss the updates to section 2 on the draft Measure Model Alignment Guide

Model Presentations and Measure Model Alignment Guide Discussion

Civitas Network for Health Model Presentation

NQF staff introduced guest speakers Jessica Little, Senior Director of Business Development and Programs at Civitas Network for Health, and Julie Sonier, President and CEO of Minnesota Community Measurement. Civitas Network for Health is a national membership organization launched October 2021 that brings together local health innovators in sharing data to improve patient care outcomes representing more than 95% of the United States (U.S.) population. This organization partnered with the Network for Regional Healthcare Improvement (NRHI) and the Strategic Health Information Exchange Collaborative (SHIEC) which allowed collaboration, growth, and the ability to offer a variety of affiliations (i.e., full members, affiliated members, and strategic business and technology partners). This partnership also allowed sharing of best practices and public and private entity messaging on the benefits, functions, and roles of Health Information Exchange (HIEs), All-Payer Claims Databases (APCDs), and Regional Health Improvement Collaboratives (RHICs).

Goals of the Civitas Digital Measures workgroup include the identification of priorities for digital measures, review of best practices of national competitors, advocating for funding and resources to support members and partners, and providing strategic guidance to the leadership team. Data aggregation was noted as a powerful tool in supporting data flow from providers to payers, reducing the risk of fragmentation between data collection systems. It was noted that there is a new data

aggregator validation certification program from the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA), supporting verifying competencies in connecting data sources between health plans, providers, and government organizations for use in Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS) reporting and other quality programs. Civitas' members represent diverse expertise in data and measurement including streamlining data aggregation for quality measurement, measure selection and adoption, reducing fragmentation of data, public reporting, and stakeholder engagement. NQF staff inquired if they could share more information on digital measurement. Ms. Little explained that their expanded membership allowed them to bring new levels of expertise and transparency in their use of digital measurement and regional collaboratives to improve data aggregation.

NQF staff asked if they could share best practices in cross-sector collaboration considering the variety of stakeholder interests. Ms. Little shared that variation in data interoperability policies was a challenge to identifying an approach that satisfied different stakeholder groups. Civitas explained that they built trust using best practice champions, who shared their ideas regionally and within communities. For example, best practice champions focused on how medical and social data could be aggregated to support increasing patients' access to appropriate care.

Wisconsin Collaborative for Healthcare Quality Model Presentation

NQF staff introduced guest speaker Matt Gigot, Chief Operating Officer at WCHQ, which was founded in 2003 by a group of healthcare leaders to reduce the fragmentation of clinical data within health plans. In addition, WCHQ is dedicated to helping improve the quality and affordability of healthcare through efficiencies in data collection, measurement, collaboration, and public reporting. While their members are primarily health systems, they also have a small number of oral health practices statewide. Membership in WCHQ is completely voluntary but healthcare data must be shared to use in improvement and public reporting efforts. WCHQ's core competencies include the following: develop, collect, and publicly report performance measures; create and disseminate quality improvement strategies; facilitate collaboration; and share best practices across the membership.

The WCHQ measure portfolio is overseen by the board subcommittee called the Measurement Advisory Committee (MAC) that uses the following criteria to assess measures: strategic importance to their population, NQF endorsement, foundation in clinical evidence, measurement burden, payer/purchaser alignment, and performance gap. The measure portfolio is reviewed annually and measures are retired as necessary.

WCHQ relies heavily on adopting existing measures using a standardized denominator definition encompassing multiple office-based visits over two years rather than the annual reporting timeframe that stewards typically use. This change captures a broader population and was driven by the need to capture disparities and health equity data. Measure specifications are programmed into a centralized data repository, and members have access to results for six months prior to public measure reporting. NQF staff asked about the process for changing denominator specifications, and it was confirmed that the MAC arbitrates any decisions. NQF staff asked if it has been difficult for members to move toward more longitudinal data collection (as opposed to yearly one visit encounter reporting). WCHQ

responded that they have received positive feedback from their members.

WCHQ generates measures using electronic health reporting data from member organizations. Reports are generated at the facility and physician levels. Statewide benchmarks are shared with members, however, measures are not risk adjusted. In 2017, WCHQ received funding to develop a statewide [health disparities report](#) based on their patient demographic information on race, ethnicity, and location. During 2019 and 2020, data demonstrated substantial disparities across different measures and populations of interest as defined by a difference of ten or more percentage points compared to the top-performing group. NQF staff asked why WCHQ focuses on stratification and not risk adjustment. Mr. Gigot responded that in their experience it has been more difficult to utilize risk-adjusted data to drive improvement.

A co-chair asked about the scoring methodology used for public reporting. Mr. Gigot responded that aggregated results are shared using a bar chart reflecting the percentage of compliant patients per measure. An attribution algorithm is used to track providers with patients and clinical settings to avoid duplication between providers that work in multiple settings and assure accurate measure reporting.

Measure Model Alignment Guide: Section 2 – Promising Practices
NQF staff shared feedback on the Measure Model Alignment Guide working draft and the measure selection and adoption processes. The goal is to continue to build out Section 2: Promising Practices for discussion during the next meeting. Previous Workgroup discussion was summarized in this section of the guide. NQF staff also shared that the Guide will include examples from the six model presentations and encouraged members to review the Guide content and provide input.

Next Steps
NQF staff shared that the Workgroup's discussion will be summarized and posted on the CQMC SharePoint page. NQF shared that the final Measure Model Alignment Web Meeting is scheduled for January 27 from 3:00 - 4:30 pm ET. NQF staff thanked the presenters, Workgroup members, and co-chairs for their engagement during the meeting.