



December 17, 2023

To Whom it May Concern:

As Chairman of the Board of Directors of the California Health Care Coalition, I am writing in support of the following patient-reported outcomes measures for cancer care:

- MUC2023-162 Patient-Reported Pain Interference Following Chemotherapy among Adults with Breast Cancer
- MUC2023-190 Patient-Reported Fatigue Following Chemotherapy among Adults with Breast Cancer.

The California Health Care Coalition is a non-profit coalition of labor trusts that oversee health benefits purchasing and administration on behalf of over 1,000,000 lives. After many years of consulting to group benefit plans, pursuing aggressive cost containment strategies, and undertaking initiatives to improve quality and accountability, I am excited about the progress of this measurement effort. For many years, purchasers have been challenged with the slow adoption of patient-centered measures and longitudinal quality measures that focus on quality outcomes and patient functionality.

In my Board roles as Chairman of California Hospital Compare, which publishes hospital quality information, and Healthcare Payments Data Review Committee, which oversees the development of California's All Payer Claims Database, I have worked hard to advance accountability and outcomes measurement. As cancer care has grown to become a major driver of overall health care costs, we have been frustrated with the lack of outcomes measures, particularly those that address patient experience while undergoing curative cancer treatment.

As purchasers we are pleased to see the evolution of the Medicare Enhancing Oncology Care model and its inclusion of a path to advance ePROs adoption. Recognizing the complexity of the patient journey in cancer care and challenges encountered in managing the debilitating effects of chemotherapy and radiation treatment, we are pleased to see progress in outcomes measurement. Patient-centered measures are also important for use in shared decision making and engaging patients in treatment choices. A focus on patient outcomes can have an important impact on survivorship, quality of life and ultimately return to work.

My strong belief is that to really succeed in fixing the current broken health care delivery system's runaway cost train it is imperative that there be marked improvement on the overall quality and appropriateness of the healthcare being delivered and that actionable data, in particular measurements as to performance outcomes, to be utilized to permit policy decision makers responsible for establishing plan design features expected to steer plan participants to those service providers that deliver the most optimal outcomes versus those that don't.

Please consider adopting any and all measures deemed appropriate for aiding purchaser plan sponsors and their consumer participants in identifying the best performing service providers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken Stuart", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ken Stuart  
Chairman