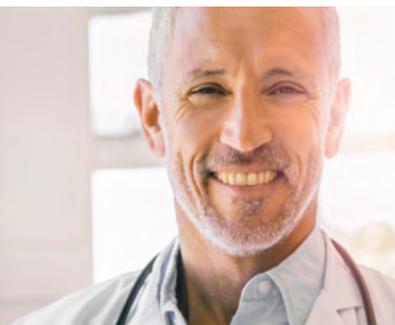# Clinical Integration Educational Series
Quality Measurement for Medicare Shared Savings Program Track 1 Accountable Care Organizations

Introduction

As you know, on January 1st, SRQCN began its participation in Track 1 of the Medicare Shared Savings Program (MSSP). As a reminder, MSSP is a voluntary, three-year program for clinicians who provide care to Medicare fee-for-service beneficiaries. In MSSP, groups of providers come together to form Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs). As a participant in the SRQCN MSSP ACO, you will collaborate with other providers to improve quality and coordination of care for your Medicare fee-for-service beneficiaries, as well as reduce Medicare Parts A and B spending for those beneficiaries.

MSSP offers clinicians a chance to share in the savings they help produce if they reduce spending on Medicare beneficiaries and keep quality of care high.

Last week we provided an overview of MSSP and what it means to be a MSSP Track 1 ACO participant. This week we will cover how quality of care is measured in MSSP.

Quality Measurement in MSSP Track 1 ACOs

First, it is important to note that, for Performance Year 2017, by fulfilling the quality reporting requirements of MSSP, you are also fulfilling the Quality Category reporting requirements under the Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS).[1] Therefore, you will only need to report on the MSSP quality metrics.

In 2017, MSSP quality is "pay-for-reporting," meaning that as long as you report the measures fully, you will receive full credit for the MSSP quality measures. Actual performance on the measures will not affect your MSSP quality score. However, your actual performance on the MSSP quality metrics will affect your final MIPS Quality category score. CMS will apply MIPS Quality category requirements and benchmarks to your MSSP quality data to determine your MIPS quality score.

Under MSSP, you will be scored on 31 quality metrics across four domains:

1. Patient and Caregiver Experience (8 measures)
2. Care Coordination and Patient Safety (10 measures)
3. Preventive Health (8 measures)
4. Clinical Care for At-Risk Populations (including patients with depression, diabetes, hypertension, and ischemic vascular disease) (5 measures)

The eight measures under the Patient and Caregiver Experience domain will be collected by CMS using a patient experience survey. Eight of the measures under the Care Coordination and Patient Safety domain will be collected by CMS through claims. For these measures, no clinician reporting is required.

However, the remaining 15 measures (two measures from Care Coordination and Patient Safety, and all of the measures under the Preventive Health and Clinical Care for At-Risk Populations domains) will be collected through manual abstraction or EHR and submitted to the CMS Web Interface.

Impact of Quality Score on Shared Savings

The quality scores of each provider in the ACO will be aggregated and averaged, yielding an overall ACO quality score. In order to be eligible for shared savings, you and the other SRQCN MSSP ACO providers must reduce spending on your Medicare beneficiaries relative to CMS' projected spending target. If the SRQCN MSSP ACO is successful at reducing costs, SRQCN's actual percentage of shared savings will depend on quality performance. The maximum percentage of shared savings that will go to the SRQCN MSSP ACO is 50% (CMS keeps the other 50%).

The complete list of the 31 MSSP ACO quality metrics is available *here*.

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[1]*MIPS is one of the two payment tracks established by the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA). MIPS reimburses clinicians based on their performance in four categories, one of which is quality.*

Next week, this series will illustrate how beneficiaries are attributed to the SRQCN MSSP ACO. ***Additionally, SRQCN has published a MIPS (Merit-Based Incentive Payment System) Playbook, which outlines the network's MIPS strategy and walks you through the reporting process.*** *For more details please contact your Physician Practice Liaison or visit https://qpp.cms.gov.*

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