

American Medical Association

Physicians dedicated to the health of America



AMA Convened Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement

Consortium Background

The American Medical Association (AMA) is a national leader in creating tools to help physicians provide the highest quality care to their patients. In recognition of physicians' professional responsibility to provide quality health care, the AMA began developing physician performance measures in 1998, and in 2000 started convening the Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement. **The AMA has spent approximately \$5 million dollars over the past five years to staff and operate the Consortium.** It is the leading physician-led initiative in the country to develop physician level performance measures. Consortium membership includes:

- Experts in methodology;
- Clinical experts representing more than 65 national medical specialty and state medical societies;
- Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ);
- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS);
- Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations - liaison member, and;
- National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) - liaison member.
- National medical specialty societies continue to join the Consortium.

Studies have shown that the 30 percent of Medicare beneficiaries with four or more chronic conditions are responsible for almost 80 percent of program spending in any year. Much of the Consortium's focus has been on achieving improvement in physician care for these conditions. To date, **the Consortium and its partners have developed 90 performance measures for 15 clinical areas listed below:**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adult Diabetes• Asthma• Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease• Community-Acquired Bacterial Pneumonia• Coronary Artery Disease• Heart Failure• Hypertension• Major Depressive Disorder | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Osteoarthritis of the Knee• Prenatal Testing <p><u>Preventive Care and Screening Measures:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Colorectal Cancer Screening• Influenza Immunization, Adult• Screening Mammography• Problem Drinking• Tobacco Use Cessation |
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CMS Pilot Testing

All current CMS physician quality demonstration projects and pilots are utilizing and testing AMA Consortium measures. These include the following:

- Doctors' Office Quality (DOQ) Project;
- DOQ-Information Technology (DOQ-IT) Project;
- The Medicare Physician Group Practice Demonstration;
- Medicare Chronic Care Improvement Program / Sec. 721 MMA, and;
- Medicare Care Management Performance Demonstration Project / Sec. 649 MMA.

Integration of Consortium Measures in Electronic Health Records

The July 2004 Framework for Strategic Action from the HHS Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, Dr. David Brailer, cites the Consortium's work with CMS to develop the specifications required to integrate performance measures into electronic health records (EHRs). With AHRQ and AMA funding, AMA and its partners are testing Consortium performance measures with multiple EHR products.

2005 Consortium Pipeline

The Consortium plans to complete approximately 18 measures in the following categories by the end of 2005:

- Atrial Fibrillation
- Perioperative Care
- Child and Adolescent Major Depressive Disorder
- Pediatric Acute Gastroenteritis

National Quality Forum (NQF)

Consortium measure sets are currently undergoing expedited review by the NQF for national **endorsement expected in summer 2005.**

Ambulatory Quality Alliance (AQA)

On May 3, 2005 the AQA adopted a 26 measure "starter set" for implementation by public and private sector health plans. **20 of the measures are part of the AMA Physician Consortium-NCQA ambulatory care performance measurement set that was submitted to NQF for expedited review. The remaining six measures were developed by the National Diabetes Quality Improvement Alliance, of which AMA is a founding member.** Nancy Nielsen, MD, Speaker of AMA's House of Delegates, Chaired an AQA Subcommittee on Quality Data Reporting.

Future Steps with CMS

Senior CMS officials have publicly stated that **CMS is looking to the Consortium to be the primary measure development body for physician level performance measures used by CMS for quality improvement and accountability purposes (e.g. pay for performance).**