

2010 Quality Metrics Workgroups

1. Patient Safety Workgroup

This workgroup has been in place since 2006 and has identified numerous measure concepts that have gone on to pilot-testing and endorsement by NQF. Additionally, some of these measure concepts have been translated into performance measures for Medicare Part D plans. The role of this group is to continuously review and update existing measure concepts as well as to identify new concepts related to medication safety.

Objectives:

- a. Review the current PQA measure concept related to drug-drug interactions and identify appropriate updates to the measure concept.
- b. Assess the need for a measure of drug-disease conflicts. If so, conduct an environmental scan of existing measures of high-risk drug-disease conflicts to ascertain their suitability for performance measurement.
- c. Assess the need for other measures of medication safety that may be appropriate for assessing pharmacist or drug-plan performance.

2. Palliative Care & Pain Management Workgroup

This is a NEW workgroup for 2010. This cluster group was created so that PQA's efforts "mirror" the efforts of the National Priorities Partnership which is a collaborative effort to help focus performance improvement efforts on high-leverage areas with the most potential to result in substantial improvements in health and healthcare—and thus accelerate fundamental change in our healthcare delivery system.

Pain is one of the most debilitating and feared symptoms that patients with life-limiting illness face, and many cancer patients have reported under-treatment and inequitable access to pain treatment. Suffering at the end of life can be prevented or alleviated for many patients through palliative care and an emphasis on effective patient management. We recognize the role that pharmacists are playing in pain management and palliative care, and believe that appropriate medication use measures in this area are needed.

Objectives:

- a. Develop a framework for evaluating the appropriate use of medications in palliative care.
- b. Conduct an environmental scan of existing measures of the quality/safety of medication use in palliative care with a focus on the appropriate use of pain medications.
- c. Identify which existing measures related to pain medications may be appropriate for use as performance measures, and determine the need for additional measures.

3. Overuse and Misuse of Medications Workgroup

This is a NEW workgroup for 2010. This cluster group was created to engage PQA in one of the six national priorities identified as part of the National Priorities Partnership. When the Priorities Partnership set up their objectives for an analogous workgroup, they included inappropriate medication use as a target issue and identified specific areas of concern including overuse of antibiotics and polypharmacy. PQA and the analogous Overuse workgroup within the National Priorities Partnership should establish a cross-dialogue in 2010, so that the NPP workgroup is turning to PQA on areas pertaining to medication measures in this area.

Objectives:

- a. Develop a framework for examining overuse and/or misuse of medications and define the appropriate terms in this framework (i.e., how do we define “misuse” and “overuse”).
- b. Conduct an environmental scan to identify existing measures of medication overuse/misuse and determine which existing measures of medication overuse/misuse would be appropriate for performance measurement of pharmacists or drug plans.
- c. Assess the need for new measures of medication overuse/misuse.

4. Population Health Workgroup (formerly called Prevention & Wellness)

PQA is renaming this group in 2010 to mirror the terminology more commonly used in healthcare today. The goals of this group should parallel the goals of the National Priority Partnership which are to ensure all Americans receive the most effective preventive services recommended by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. The workgroup will also address the new Healthy People 2020 objectives that pertain to pharmacists and medications.

Objectives:

- a. Review the measures of population health that are used by NPP and HHS to track progress in our nation’s health. Identify the measures that may be impacted by pharmacists.
- b. Create case-studies of how pharmacists have helped to address population health issues including immunizations, tobacco cessation, and disease screenings.
- c. Provide recommendations on how PQA can help to coordinate efforts across pharmacy organizations to gain greater recognition of the pharmacist’s role in health promotion.

5. The Role of Medication Management Programs in Care Transitions and the Patient Centered Medical Home Workgroup

This Cluster Group is the result of a “merger” of two separate cluster groups—formerly the *Medication Reconciliation Cluster Group* and the *Pharmacists Role in the Patient Centered Medical Home Model*.

Objectives:

- a. Work with the Research Coordinating Council to create a strategy for implementing the care transitions demonstration project outlined by the prior workgroup on medication reconciliation.
- b. Investigate potential methods for identifying when “medication reconciliation” has occurred in community pharmacy subsequent to a care transition.
- c. Identify potential models for how a community pharmacy could be integrated into a patient-centered medical home.

6. MTM Services Workgroup

The group has been hard at work for several years and has identified several measure concepts that may be useful for pharmacies and drug plans. Several of these measures will undergo pilot-testing during 2010. While the measures are being tested, the workgroup will shift its attention towards uptake of the measures.

Objectives:

- a. Upon release of the CMS call letter for 2011, review the new requirements for MTM programs and provide a synopsis of the changes in MTM requirements along with a discussion of the implications of the changes.
- b. Review the existing PQA measure concepts related to MTM and prioritize the measures with regards to their importance/relevance in evaluating Medicare Part D plans. Work with the PQA staff to develop recommendations to CMS on MTM performance measures.
- c. Work with the measure implementation workgroups to identify strategies for encouraging the utilization of the PQA measures related to MTM.