

Future of Quality Measurement in Washington State

Washington State Performance Measures Coordinating Committee

Purpose:

The Performance Measures Coordinating Committee (PMCC) would like to consider the future of quality measurement and its impact on how quality measures are used in Washington State to monitor and incentivize performance. The goal is to review new/emerging developments in quality measurement, both technical and measurement strategies, identify viable opportunities, including the inclusion of a health equity lens, consider what the future could look like for measures in Washington, and develop a roadmap for how we get there.

Opportunities:

The following approaches, some still emerging, while others not so new, were considered for applicability to the future state of measurement in Washington. There were several key areas that were identified as barriers, but also opportunities to improve the overall system of quality measurement. The following are the domains that were examined:

- Electronic Quality Measures (eQMs)
- Electronic Clinical Data Systems Measures (ECDS)
- Patient Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs)
- Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources) Specification (FHIR)
- Incorporation of Health Equity Lens

The following are potential opportunities the PMCC may want to consider:

Standardization:

- Standardize how we are collecting race/ethnicity data.
- Data standardization and/or normalization.
 - Data definitions
 - Specifications
 - Data submissions

Alignment:

- Alignment to reduce administrative burden.
 - Health equity considerations
- Alignment with CMS.
- Interoperability is still in early stages, so think about how to ensure alignment as this continues to evolve.

Readiness:

- Consider the impacts of implementing policy without technical readiness.
- Monitoring and facilitating readiness to implement new types of measures.

Health equity:

- Think about leveraging new data sources, rather than expanding the list of measures.
- How can we use race/ethnicity data to measure wellness, health promotion and disease prevention?
 - What are the opportunities this information presents?
- Explore opportunity to adopt UW Disparity Care Index for quality measures across populations of interest.
- PRO collection platforms allow us to capture key data related to health equity and could be a catalyst to self-reporting race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status among other health equity measures.

Scope:

The scope for this work may be an extension of what the PMCC is currently charged with doing. An “out of the box” approach, that understands and complements the need to stay focused on current priorities such as reducing burden on providers through measurement strategies. Some things to consider as we further define the path forward:

- Where do we want to go and how do we want to get there?
- How far are we willing to depart from our current narrow scope?
- Recognize that if we provide direction and incentives (very important) then we can ask the system to move toward more modern measurement methods.
- It’s not just *what* we measure, but *how* we measure it that is important.

Timeframe:

Acknowledging the diversity of emerging new approaches related to quality measurement and the opportunities these present both now and in the future, it may be important to consider the following:

- What is a reasonable timeframe to focus on? Short term (what we can accomplish now) or longer (more aspirational)?
- We should be positioning ourselves to be ahead and think about what could be, not just what we can do today.
- A Roadmap should include both what we should be focusing on now, as well as keeping our eyes on the future and where we want to go.

Recommendations:

- **Principle:** While we want to be in the vanguard of measurement, we are trying as best as possible to be coordinated with those who are driving measurement at the national level.
- Measuring equity is important and where we need to go!
- Understanding variation in using the current measurement standards –work on reducing variation on current measures.
- Understanding how we can leverage electronic clinical standards and electronic measurement methods to ease measurement burden, reduce variation, and to improve actionability of what we are measuring.

- Ensure we are capturing the patient voice in our measurements. This could lead to increased engagement of care. Also, include health-related quality of life and the ability to trend functional/ADL improvement over time.