

Plan for the Ongoing Evolution and Evaluation Of the Statewide Core Measures Set

Background:

In 2014, the Washington State Legislature passed E2SHB 2572. The legislation directs a Governor-appointed Performance Measures Coordinating Committee (the Committee) to recommend standard statewide measures of health performance that will inform public and private health care purchasers, and will enable identification of benchmarks against which to track costs and improve health care outcomes. E2SHB 2572 further indicates that “the committee shall establish a public process to periodically evaluate the measure set and make additions or changes to the measure set as needed.”

Vision:

Healthier Washington’s vision is for 80 percent of all health plans, health care and delivery systems in the State of Washington to be using the Statewide Common Core Set of Measures to measure and improve health care quality and cost performance by 2018.

Process Concept:

Washington State’s goal for the Statewide Core Measures Set is to evolve the set over time, as the science of measurement matures. This goal was recognized during the development of the Statewide Core Measures Set in the creation of the “High Priority Development List,” a list of 28 topics that did not meet the criteria for inclusion in the “starter” set of measures, but were identified as important to consider in the future (e.g., health outcomes that require clinical data abstraction). It is not the intent to dramatically increase the number of measures over time, but to carefully consider the addition, replacement, or retirement of core measures in order to keep the total number of measures in the set to a reasonable number.

To support this goal, the process for the evaluation and evolution of the Statewide Core Measures Set will occur in two separate, yet integrated processes that are summarized here and described in more detail below.

- Topic-focused workgroups will research and recommend measures for topic areas, as identified by the Health Care Authority and Performance Measures Coordinating Committee using the High Priority Development List. Each of these workgroups will submit recommendations to the Committee to consider as new measures to include in the Core Measures Set that address the topic(s) of interest.
- After the first year of reporting results for the initial Statewide Core Measures Set, the Health Care Authority and the Performance Measures Coordinating Committee will review annual reported performance outcomes and replace or retire core measures, if necessary.

By implementing each of these processes, the Statewide Core Measures Set will remain current, including a set of measures that keeps pace with state priorities to improve health outcomes and quality of health care, reduce cost and waste in the system, and increase transparency for purchasers, consumers, providers and health plans.

A. Process for Evolving and Adding New Measures to the Measure Set:

1. The Director of the Washington State Health Care Authority and Performance Measures Coordinating Committee will annually identify topics for review and consideration, based on the priorities of state purchasers and the High Priority Development List created during the initial measure selection process in 2014.
2. The Washington State Health Care Authority, or its delegate, will convene topic-focused ad hoc workgroups annually to research and recommend measures to the Performance Measures Coordinating Committee that address the priorities/aspirational goals of state purchasers.
 - Workgroups will be topic-specific and comprised of subject matter experts. Workgroups will be time-limited insofar as they will sunset when they have completed formation of their recommendations.
 - Topic-specific workgroups will consider the following when developing recommendations for the addition of new measures to address priority topics:
 1. Measures should be based on *readily available* health care insurance claims, clinical data and/or survey data.
 2. Preference should be given to nationally-vetted measures (e.g., NQF-endorsed) and other measures currently used by public agencies. Measures should be aligned with national measure sets and other measure sets commonly used in Washington, whenever possible.
 3. Measures should have significant potential to improve health system performance in a way that will positively impact quality of care, safety and health outcomes (including morbidity, disability, mortality, health equity, and quality of life) and reduce costs.
 4. Measures should have a sufficient numerator and denominator size for each measure to produce valid and reliable results.
 5. Measures should be amenable to the influence of health care providers if results are expected to be reported at the provider level.
 6. The measure set should be aligned, to the extent possible with the Governor's performance management system measures and common measures specific to the Medicaid program.
 7. The measure set should be useable by multiple parties (purchasers, payers, providers, hospitals, health systems, public health and communities) and take into consideration different populations.
 8. Where appropriate, measures have potential to affect causality, preventing a health condition from occurring in the first place.
3. The Performance Measures Coordinating Committee will meet to review and approve recommendations by the topic-focused workgroups.
4. The Director of the Washington State Health Care Authority will take final action to add new measures to the Measure Set for subsequent years taking into account time needed for finalizing implementation plans.

B. Process for Evaluation of Measures Currently in the Core Measure Set:

1. The Washington State Health Care Authority and the Performance Measures Coordinating Committee will review the core set of measures annually, including reported performance outcomes, and replace or retire core measures, if necessary. This will begin after the first year of reporting results for the statewide core set of measures.
2. The Director of the Washington State Health Care Authority will take final action to modify the measurement/reporting process or replace or retire measures for subsequent years.

C. Delineation of Roles

- Role of Performance Measures Coordinating Committee:
 - Continue to provide oversight and advice for evolution/evaluation of the Statewide Core Measure Set.
 - Partner with the Health Care Authority to identify annual priority topic areas.
 - Meet quarterly to review and approve recommendations from workgroups.
 - Review reported performance outcomes annually and recommend replacement and/or retirement of core measures.
- Role of topic-focused workgroups:
 - Review priority topic areas annually, identifying and recommending to the Committee appropriate measures, taking into account the eight criteria noted above, that address specific topic areas.
- Role of Washington State Health Care Authority:
 - Identify, with the input of the Performance Measures Coordinating Committee, annual areas of priority for state purchasers.
 - Continue to convene and staff Performance Measures Coordinating Committee and associated public process.
 - Ensure periodic review of the core set of measures using reported performance outcomes.
 - Take final action to add, replace, or retire measures to the Statewide Core Measure Set for subsequent years taking into account time needed for finalizing implementation plans.