

## Q&A with webinar panel

July 6, 2017

Below is a summary of questions and responses raised during the webinar. When possible, it includes responses to questions that, due to time limitations, were not addressed during the webinar. Refer to the [webinar recording](#) to hear the actual dialogue.

### How are transformation efforts being coordinated to avoid overwhelming practices with assessment tools?

#### Answer:

[Panelist Mary Beth Brown] We know providers are hearing from lots of different parties with offers of help and different initiatives. We're doing our best at the state level to figure out what's happening in each region and have those contacts for technical assistance coordinate with each other.

If you're unclear about a request, contact the Hub Connector in your region and they can do the work to track down what that offer is about and whether it's a good fit for your situation. That's one of the roles of the Qualis Health Coach or Connector, including connecting you with what's happening at the Accountable Community of Health (ACH) and how it might affect you. We may not know everything that's happening because there is frequently something new available, but we are trying to stay ahead of that and be an ambassador for the provider.

### Why is it important for providers to pay attention to CMS payment initiatives such as MACRA, MIPS, or the Medicaid Demonstration? What is the business case for providers to move with these system changes and how does practice transformation support that?

#### Answer:

[Panelist Dan Lessler:] It's about the providers' ability to deliver high-quality care. The movement to value-based payment enables the type of flexibility providers need to be able to best serve their patients. When I talk to providers they feel this very strongly.

The business case is that this is the way payment is moving so it becomes critically important to be prepared to exist and practice in an environment that is driven by rewarding outcomes rather than a fee for service. The Hub and the Demonstration are among the resources available to practices to give themselves the flexibility in how they deploy resources so they can achieve the best outcomes for their patients.

#### Related links

[About Accountable Communities of Health](#)

[Qualis Health Help Desk](#)

[MACRA & MIPS](#)

[About value-based purchasing](#)

[About the Medicaid Demonstration](#)

## What benefits are providers experiencing from the Pediatric Transforming Clinical Practice Initiative (P-TCPI)?

### Answer:

[Panelist Melissa Thoemke] After a Practice Facilitator completes an assessment tool, providers are shown where their practice is succeeding and how it can improve. The Practice Facilitator offers an individualized approach and provides recommendations.

[Transforming Clinical Practice Initiative \(TCPI\) resources](#)

Results we're seeing include a decrease in emergency department visits and an increase in well-child visits.

## Is it possible for a clinic to participate in more than one practice transformation initiative, such as TCPI and the Hub?

### Answer:

[Panelist Mary Beth Brown] Providers can assume the resources available through the Hub can work with any other initiative. The Hub's funding does not restrict our collaboration with our TCPI partners. TCPI coaches, however, generally cannot work in the same setting. But first talk with your local Connector or ACH. They can help you assess and make sure the fit of technical assistance is done in such a way that is acceptable.

## How can we balance the need for quality standards across practices against the need for tailoring at the local level and within individual practices?

### Answer:

[Panelist Daniel Lessler:] The Health Care Authority is committed to using metrics from the statewide common measure set, developed under the Healthier Washington initiative. We are working with purchasers and plans to advocate for a similar approach, trying to create a one signal for the practice community to focus on.

[About Performance Measures](#)

[2017 Washington State Common Measure Set](#)

Care coordination is one of the areas of opportunity within the Medicaid Demonstration. You'll see in the Initiative 1 Project Toolkit that there are certain principles we're trying to achieve as outcomes of care coordination; how doctors operationalize on the ground in a particular clinic can look differently, but there are certain common principles that we would want to see people building off of.

[Initiative 1 Project Toolkit](#)

## How can someone access the list of statewide common measures?

### Answer:

(See related links to the right.) The Performance Measures page of the Healthier Washington website offers background about this initiative, fact sheets and links to the work of the performance measures coordinating committee.

[Community Checkup website](#)

The Washington Health Alliance tracks measures across hospitals and clinics statewide annually.

## Are links to local or county data available through the Portal?

### Answer:

[Panelist Ian Bennett:] The Portal is under continuous revision and development. The current set of resources available include toolkits designed to help practices go through the practice transformation process. They also include various background materials and videos of successes so people can get a sense of what other clinical practices have been able to achieve.

[WAPortal.org](http://WAPortal.org)

We very much want to include local resources to better align with the regional Connector and Coaching efforts. Version 2.0 of the Portal, which will be completed by the end of October, will include a mapping functionality that allows the user to input a location and the type of research they are looking for and produce localized results.

The Portal recently added a statewide catalogue of resources developed by Qualis Health.

[Directory of resources](#)

[Panelist Dan Lessler:] On the Healthier Washington website it's possible to get to a dashboard that's pretty comprehensive and allows you to cut data a number of ways. For example, comparing areas geographically around measures that are on the common measures set. It's a very powerful tool that I encourage people to take a look at.

[Healthier Washington Data Dashboard](#)