MBQIP Monthly

Medicare Beneficiary Quality Improvement Project

A publication for Flex Coordinators to share with their critical access hospitals

In This Issue

Contact your Flex Coordinator if you have questions about MBQIP.

Find your state Flex Coordinator on the Technical Assistance and Services Center (TASC) website.

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Find past issues of this newsletter and links to other MBQIP resources on TASC's MBQIP Monthly webpage.

New Episode Now Available: Quality Time: Sharing PIE (performance improvement experience) Conversations

As part of Stratis Health's National Rural Virtual Quality Improvement Mentor program, the latest installment of Quality Time: Sharing PIE (performance improvement experience) recorded conversations is online and ready for listening!

In this series, the mentors, experienced critical access hospital quality improvement (QI) staff from across the country, come together to share PIE—their performance improvement experience. They discuss key topics that help drive quality improvement in their rural hospitals. You can hear their lessons learned, strategies, tips, and ideas. Included with each episode are supportive resources for the topic, along with one of the mentor's favorite real pie recipes!

In this second leadership-focused session of Quality Time: Sharing PIE, executive, board, and clinical representatives from Sparrow Clinton Hospital in St. Johns, Michigan, share examples of how board and senior leaders are engaged in helping drive quality outcomes. You can listen from the Sharing PIE webpage, or on the go by subscribing to the podcast version through your favorite streaming service.
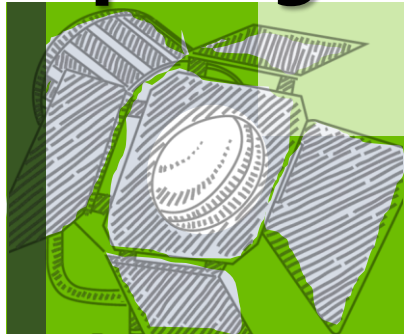
Burning QI Question?
Ask a QI Mentor.

The virtual QI mentors want to share their performance improvement experience in critical access hospitals with you. Have a burning question? Want to suggest a PIE conversation topic? Just submit this short form.

The National Rural Virtual Quality Improvement Mentor program is led by Stratis Health. Contact Sarah Brinkman for more information.

Guest Spotlight

CDC Launches Project Firstline
Healthcare Infection Control Training Collaborative

In 2020, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) launched **Project Firstline,** a collaborative of diverse health care and public health partners that will provide frontline health care workers the accessible, transparent, and interactive infection control training they need to protect themselves, their patients, their coworkers, and their communities. To stop the spread of infectious disease threats—including the virus that causes COVID-19—every health care worker needs a foundational knowledge of infection control and must be ready to integrate infection control practices into their workday.

In December, Project Firstline launched a video series for frontline health care workers called *Inside Infection Control*. The videos feature CDC's Dr. Abby Carlson, a physician with experience on the frontlines of COVID-19. *Inside Infection Control* videos range from 3-8 minutes and are designed to describe important infection control concepts and discuss infection control actions that are important for healthcare workers to understand and apply during the current phase of the pandemic. The full *Inside Infection Control* video series can be accessed on Facebook. After they air on Facebook, videos ar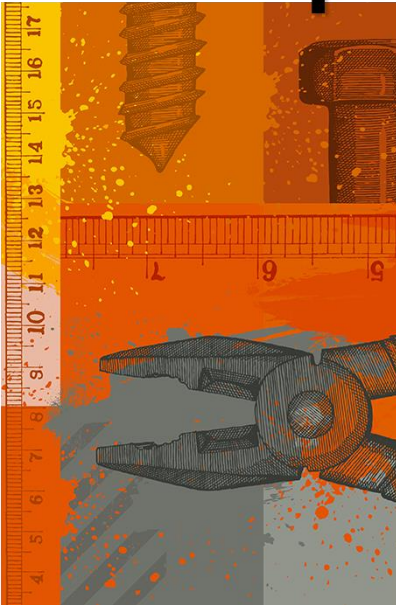e also added to YouTube and the Project Firstline website. Additional videos are in production and new training resources will be shared on the Project Firstline website as they become available.

There are many ways critical access hospital quality improvement managers can use the Project Firstline *Inside Infection Control* training videos and related materials to support staff including:
- Sharing links to the videos in email publications, such as newsletters
- Presenting a video during staff meetings, or other relevant gatherings
- Offering as an opportunity to complement other healthcare infection control training

You can follow Project Firstline on Facebook, Twitter, and sign up for email newsletters to get the latest information and training resources.

Tips

Go to Guides

Hospital Quality Measure Guides

- [MBQIP Quality Reporting Guide](#)
- [Emergency Department Transfer Communication](#)
- [Inpatient Specifications Manual](#)
- [Outpatient Specifications Manual](#)

Robyn Quips - tips and frequently asked questions

Data Submission Update:
Email notification came from CMS on February 26, extending the Medicare Outpatient Quality Reporting (OQR) Program's third-quarter submission deadlines for population and sampling and patient-level chart-abstracted clinical data submissions to April 1, 2021.

Were you able to attend the Hospital Outpatient Quality Reporting team webinar on February 24, 2021? If not, you can view the recorded presentation and slides.

Here are a few of my thoughts from the presentation:

- The QualityNet home page still exists. This is where you will find your Specification Manuals, CART tools, and general CMS Quality Reporting Programs information. Your secure log-in for reporting is what was moved from this site.

- Submitting data is now done through the Hospital Quality Reporting (HQR) platform by logging in through your HARP account. Once you have logged in, you can locate the site you need to submit data (Data Submissions) and check to make sure your data was received and accepted (Data Results). Other options are Program Reporting and Administration. You can refer to the recording for functions found there.

- For Population and Sampling, when you select Not Sampled, the Sampling grid will no longer automatically be filled in for you. You need to enter numbers in both grids. If you don't sample, put the same number in the Sampling grid as you have in the Population grid. If you do sample, the total population numbers for the measure are recorded under Population, and the number you are abstracting/submitting data for gets entered in the Sampling grid. If you aren't submitting data for one of the measure sets, (such as the Stroke measure) choose N/A Submission Not Required.

- After you submit your chart abstracted data, it appears you will no longer get an email from QualityNet telling you that your files were received. Instead, a green checkmark will appear with the word "Received" under the Status column. As with the emails, I think this only means your files were received, not necessarily that QualityNet accepted your individual cases. Make sure to check this by running the Case Status Summary report. You will find how to select this report by looking for Data Results under the Dashboard and selecting Chart Abstracted. Slides 46-47 from the presentation handout show the process to run the report.

- The webinar also showed how to submit web-based measures; for the MBQIP program, that would be OP-22. That data is due by May 15, and I'll talk about this in my April column. If any questions come to mind on submitting OP-22 after watching the webinar, let me know, and I will address them next month.

- Finally, the team putting on this session was the Hospital Outpatient Quality Reporting Team. They only have outpatient role access for their HARP accounts, so your screens might look a bit different if you have more user roles, such as reporting for inpatient measures. Most importantly, it was mentioned several times during the presentation that changes are not complete yet for the HQR platform, so be on the lookout for email updates. It's a good idea to log in every month and check out the screens to see if there have been any changes.

Tools

COVID-19 Information

Resources to support health care providers in responding to coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) are continually being updated. The Rural Health Information Hub is regularly updating and adding links for Rural Response to COVID-19:

- Federal and National Response Resources
- State Response Resources
- Rural Healthcare Surge Readiness

MBQIP Resources

Ask Robyn – Quarterly Open Office Hours Calls for Data Abstractors
Tuesday, April 13, 2020, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. CT – **Register**
Sometimes it just helps to talk to someone! Quality Reporting Specialist Robyn Carlson will be offering open office hour calls to discuss your MBQIP abstraction questions. Sessions are free of charge, but registration is required. For more information about the Ask Robyn calls, contact Robyn Carlson, rcarlson@stratishealth.org.

Updated! Interpreting MBQIP Hospital Data Reports for Quality Improvement. This guide is intended to help critical access hospital (CAH) staff use Medicare Beneficiary Quality Improvement Project (MBQIP) Hospital Data Reports to support quality improvement efforts and improve patient care.

Updated! MBQIP Data Submission Deadlines
This single-page document contains a chart showing the MBQIP data submission deadlines through Quarter 2, 2021 and reflects extensions to Q3 and Q4 2020 Data Submission deadlines intended to provide additional flexibility for hospitals due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

CY2020 eCQM Reporting Using the HQR System: Q&A Session
Tuesday, March 9, 2021, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. CT – Register
This session is devoted to addressing data submitter questions related to the aligned reporting of electronic clinical quality measures (eCQMs) for the Hospital Inpatient Quality Report (IQR) Program and the Medicare portion of the Medicare and Medicaid Promoting Interoperability Programs for calendar year (CY) 2020. Participants will be able to locate the CY 2020 eCQM reporting requirements, locate and use tool and reference materials to assist with submission, and perform steps for successful eCQM submission for the upcoming April 1, 2021 deadline.

Framework for Effective Board Governance of Health System Quality. From the Institute of Healthcare Improvement Lucian Leape Institute, this white paper includes a clear, actionable framework for oversight of all dimensions of quality as well as an assessment tool and support guides. Free login required to access.

Free On-Demand Webinar: Sepsis Process Improvement in the COVID Era
Sepsis is the #1 cause of death in hospitals and #1 cause of readmissions. Learn how to improve processes for identifying and treating patients for sepsis in this on-demand webinar from Luminare (sign-up required to receive webinar link).