

Healthcare Regional Cost Measurement & Transparency NRHI Board Update – October 31, 2014

Summary

During the past few months, we've received reaffirming signals from our funder, technical advisors and potential research partners about the importance and value of generating and using total cost of care measures to address the affordability of healthcare. Meaningful and credible data comparisons are foundational to helping stakeholder groups take action to reduce overall healthcare spending. The project team continues its commitment to the necessary rigor and time to ensure valid results which is critically important as the level of visibility of our efforts increase nationally.

Key Accomplishments

Key accomplishments during the last two months include:

- Validated 2012 analysis findings and process improvement recommendations for 2013 analysis with HealthPartners (external Technical Advisor).
- Established more objective criteria to determine if individual RHIC data and analyses require further investigation prior to inclusion in the benchmark.
- Drafted and reviewed Robert Wood Johnson Foundation project renewal concept paper with project team for input.
- Presented project overview and highlights of National Physician Leadership Seminar at the Hanley Center's Physician Executive Leadership Institute.
- Held NRHI Member Webinar to share approach, curriculum, outcomes and materials from the National Physician Leadership Seminar.
- Distributed and hosted information sessions for funding opportunities for RHICs to participate in next phase of the Stanford Clinical Excellence Research Center- American Idol in Medicine project.
- Held a panel discussion during the Center for Healthcare Transparency's Regional Data Center Collaborative meeting to share lessons learned about standardization and benchmarking.
- Began recruitment of trusted functional experts and developed draft curriculum to launch TCoC dissemination through on the Collaborative Health Network.
- Invited and accepted offer from RWJF to present the pre-conference session of their Transparency Summit in March 2015.
- Awarded \$35K supplemental grant from RWJF to hold National Summit April 2015 at project conclusion.

Barriers/Challenges

Challenges and barriers encountered and any *mitigation efforts* noted:

- Availability of 2013 data for analysis.
- Align timing of project deliverables with other local RHIC deliverables; *close collaboration with team members.*
- Need alternative plan for employer engagement as a result of our decision to not present at the National Business Coalition for Health Annual Conference. *Focus of next team face to face meeting will include employer representation and planning.*

Next Steps

The following next steps are planned over the next three months:

1. Begin 2013 data analysis to produce practice level reports.
2. Run 2013 data using revised technical specification for benchmark submission.
3. Apply parameters for determining which data require further investigation before inclusion in benchmark.
4. Calculate 2013 benchmarks.
5. Continue development of Collaborative Health Network platform for dissemination of project “Road Map” and continued physician engagement.
6. Build communication library to support local roll out of practice level reports.
7. Submit TCOC renewal concept paper to RWJF by end of November.
8. Continue to explore funding opportunities with AIM that align with current and future efforts to produce and use Total Cost of Care.
9. Roll out of total cost of care reports in individual communities leveraging lessons learned and shared communications.

Requested Board Action

The following NRHI Board actions are requested for consideration:

1. Continue assessment of opportunities for AIM funding.
2. Actively participate in discussions related to phase 2 of TCOC pilot and proposals to develop further use of measure set.

Contact

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