

Health Care Quality in a Post-Pandemic Era

Peggy O'Kane, President, National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) Princeton Conference October 3, 2023

'America's health care system is neither healthy, caring, nor a system.''

WALTER CRONKITE



What NCQA does, and why

The mission: To improve the quality of health care

Measurement

We can't improve what we don't measure.

Transparency

Quality results should be publicly available.

Accountability

Quality outcomes should matter to the entities that report them.



NCQA 216 million

About

65% of population

Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS)

shines a light on health plans' quality

Current State of HEDIS Measures

Effectiveness of Care (56)

Prevention & Screenings (9)

Respiratory Conditions (4)

Cardiovascular Conditions (3)

Diabetes (1)

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Musculoskeletal Conditions (1)
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Behavioral Health (9)

Medication Management & Care Coordination (20)

Overuse/Appropriateness (9)

Access/Availability of Care (5)

Utilization (5)

Risk Adjusted Utilization (5)

Measures Reported Using Electronic Data (11)



HEDIS is evolving

Paper >> digital specification

Claims data >> Practice-level clinical data

Goal: Realtime quality info that improves practice





NCQA accredits systemness

The largest accreditor of health plans



42 states use or require NCQA Accreditation **192 million** people (**59% of insured Americans**) are in plans NCQA accredits **1,200+** health plans are NCQA-Accredited



NCQA accredits systemness

The most widely adopted model for patient-centered medical homes

- Patient-Centered Medical Home Recognition - systemness in primary care
 - Launched 2008, updated 2012 & 2018
 - Emphasis: Care coordination, follow-up

• Patient-Centered Specialty Care Recognition - systemness between primary care and specialty care



Digital technology is a potential game changer

- Communications among care providers and between delivery systems and plans.
- More efficient monitoring of at-risk patients
- Analytics alerts to lighten load on practitioners



Legacy financing paradigms stand in the way of efficiency and quality

- Financing paradigms
 - Fee for service
 - Underpayment of primary care providers, overpayment of specialists (RVUs)
 - Benefit design (esp. high-deductible plans)
- "The Market"
 - Broad acquisition of primary care practices has transformed the market (health plans, health systems buying PC practices)



We're building a new approach to primary care

Scope of Services Level of Care Coordination & Care Management Intensity

							Patient Centered Medical Home			
Virtual- only Urgent Care	Urgent Care Clinics	School Based Health Centers	Employer Onsite/ near-site clinics	Retail Primary Care Clinics	Virtual- only Primary Care	Traditional individual/ small group practices	System Primary Care Service Lines	PCP Aggregators (VBC focused)	Federally Qualified Health Clinics	Geriatric/ complex care & home-based primary care

Rising Risk, High Risk

Low and Moderate Risk Populations

- Access 7 x 24
- Referral management / care coordination
- Preventive care, screenings, assessments
- Low acuity condition management
- Digital / hybrid therapies
- Care management "light"

- Primary care specialty alignment (whole person)
- Disease/condition management
- Care coordination
- Transitions of care
- Team-based care

Patient Health Risk



Competencies our virtual care standards assess

Data Sharing and Exchange	Care Coordination	Equitable Access	Patient Experience	Quality and Patient Safety	Quality Improvement Measures
Definition of individual data Consent for data use Internal controls	Closed loop referral systems Leveraging pre- existing data to inform visits Synchronous & asynchronous communication platforms, systems and timeframes	Internet access is critical Demographic data collection Social needs screenings	Meeting patient needs through seamless access to virtual care	Access Hybrid as well as Virtual Person-driven outcomes Med rec	Operational, clinical quality and patient experience measures



