



Quality Assurance Task Force

March 3, 2017

NOTES

Training of HEDIS measure coding and best practices at MRHA and other partner association conferences

In order to better facilitate the need for quality coding and HEDIS measure submission, it is desired that speakers from Magnolia Health and United Healthcare present at the MRHA Rural Health Clinic Conference in April as well as at the Mississippi Health Information Management Association annual conference in June. Other opportunities may be available as well. Interest was found with both groups, and follow-up will be made to secure speakers and specifics.

Contract negotiation based on HEDIS scoring

One important topic that has been discussed in recent months is the need for practices to complete HEDIS measures in order to negotiate better contracts each year. This is not widely known by providers and administrators at this time, so additional training and education is needed.

Providers must select 5 of 72 possible HEDIS measures on which to focus for the given year. They are measured on those data points only. Obtaining these measures from claims data is preferred, but often the MCOs must dive deeper into hybrid data, which required manual data dives to retrieve information.

New initiatives and incentives for quality improvement

Discussion was held as to incentives for quality improvement. It was restated that Mississippi statute does not allow for "negative penalties" for lack of quality reporting on HEDIS, so the number of incentives is also limited due to limited resources. Both MCOs desire to increase incentives, though, especially in the mechanism of shared savings. This is a possible area of growth in future years.

One of the biggest areas of need was discussed to be after-hours care. Both MCOs stated that they would be willing to work with providers to establish extra benefits for providing after-hours care in rural areas. Although it was stated that the number of patients for after-hours care does not typically result in enough revenue to support the overtime required to open after-hours, it was also noted that alternative forms of clinic operation may be allows. Such could include a skeleton staff along with a central provider using telemedicine services. This could reduce the cost of after-hours care and still provide the care needed for patients.



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Status update on Medicaid RFP

The deadline for application to the RFP is April 7, 2017, and the date that Medicaid will announce the successful applicants is July 21, 2017.

Zach Allen application for southern representation on MACPAC

Zach Allen, MRHA president-elect and member of the Quality Assurance Task Force, is in the final stages of running for the federal MACPAC, which is an advisory group dedicated to studying the future of Medicaid and alternative Medicaid roll-out. Zach would represent the southern states on MACPAC if successful.

MRHA member issues

Five member issues were reported this month, and all were resolved by the respective MCOs and the Division of Medicaid.

Next Meeting
Friday, May 5, 2017