

Committee meeting notes

Committee Name: Health Economics Committee

Recent Meeting Date(s): March 9, 2023

Achievements/Decisions:

- There was a recap of themes and calls-to-action presented at the March 7th All Alliance meeting. This was followed by a review and discussion of additional results for quality measures stratified by Area Deprivation Index (ADI) deciles.
- Plans were detailed for two events to occur on May 16th: the report release for Total Cost of Care (TCoC) stratified by ADI, followed by a 3-hour sponsored work session to be anchored by (1) the Quality x ADI results and (2) the TCoC x ADI results. Prioritized action areas emerging from the work session are expected to come before the HEC and other Alliance bodies thereafter.
- As part of a concerted effort to address value topics directly, the HEC discussed holding one or more joint meetings with the Quality Improvement Committee. They also received a development update on the quality-and-cost blending tool, a feature slated for Q1 2024.
- The meeting concluded with a look at two industry developments: an audit of hospital compliance with federal price transparency rules, including Washington state; and a case study of how finance and operations become linked in an investor-owned physician staffing firm.

Issues/Risks/Concerns:

Reactions to displays of quality x ADI results:

- Higher avoidable ER visit rates in Medicaid might be due to lack of co-pays in the benefit
- Test measures for adherence differences between unattributed male and female patients

Input on the idea of holding one or more joint meetings of HEC and QIC to address value topics:

- There seems to be a preference for holding the meeting(s) in person.
- A two-hour duration with follow-up options was suggested.
- Given summer vacation schedules, a June or July meeting could attract about the same number of people normally attending a regular committee gathering.
- Hearing what employers have to say about value in healthcare will be essential to teeing up a joint meeting. However, there are few employer representatives on the HEC and QIC rosters.

Upcoming Activities:

- Alliance staff will continue developing TCoC x ADI analysis and reporting in advance of the events planned for May 16th.
- The Alliance will explore holding a joint HEC-QIC meeting in the coming months, and consider ways to broaden employer/consumer representation at the meeting.