

Committee meeting notes

Committee Name: Health Economics Committee

Recent Meeting Date(s): June 14, 2018

Achievements/Decisions:

- The committee received an overview of the public and private versions of the 2018 Hospital Value Report. As in 2017, they were asked to provide improvement ideas for future releases. The strongest calls were to move away from a gross charge index and instead use allowed dollars for the financial metric.
- The Alliance's strategic plan calls for two new reports that incorporate price information, and the committee began discussing concepts and topics that could appeal to stakeholders. Prominent among these was measuring episodic cost using allowed dollars, shown alongside related quality and/or outcomes results, plus episode volume. Another idea involved comparing costs differences of major procedures that currently can be done in different sites of care (inpatient, hospital outpatient, ambulatory surgical centers). A purchaser noted that performance information organized into Accountable Care Networks is needed.

Issues/Risks/Concerns:

- Members asked about the intended audience of the Hospital Value Report. The Alliance emphasized that the private report, available to Alliance members, is geared toward purchasers, health plans and providers, and includes all the detailed results. The publicly available Highlight on the Community Checkup website includes an interactive data visualization that enables any user to compare summary level results for up to two hospitals at a time.
- A member asked what next steps might be for findings in the latest Different Regions Different Care highlight; they showed a nearly five-fold higher rate of hysterectomies for women living in Richland compared to Seattle.

Upcoming Activities:

- Members were invited to share additional ideas for new reports/analyses containing price information as they come to mind in the coming weeks.