

Committee meeting notes

Committee Name: Health Economics Committee

Recent Meeting Date(s): November 8, 2018

Achievements/Decisions:

- Members concluded their previews for the fourth of the four reports containing price information. They addressed whether the results aligned with their impressions of the market, what questions the data raised, improvement ideas, and guidance on special messaging.
- At their December meeting, the QIC will revisit minimum sample size requirements for Alliance performance measures. HEC members spoke to practices at their organizations and special aspects they consider.

Issues/Risks/Concerns:

- HEC members offered practical feedback on price variation for inpatient treatments, such as:
 - When a provider does not appear in results, it need not imply they do not offer the service.
 - Providers would want to see the facility-professional split of the overall case price (as opposed to the “all in” price to the purchaser).
 - Clarify that “minor severity” refers to a clinically-driven categorization of case complexity and not the patient’s experience.
- HEC members spoke to their experiences for minimum sample size rules. Their observations:
 - Context and use are important, i.e., public reports require stricter standards than private reports (such as might be used during contracting meetings).
 - Standards vary depending on measure type (quality, utilization, financial) and reporting level (clinic, county, health plan).
 - The discussion focused mainly on Community Checkup type measures (i.e., quality scores for provider organizations that range between 0%-100%).
 - For denominators, the main consideration is mitigating statistical “noise.”
 - Current Alliance minimum = 100
 - Discussed standards varied from 20 to 100 for private and quasi-public reports (e.g., a plan’s members-only reports). A minimum of 30 could be thought of as an informal “market standard” in these applications.
 - For numerators, it is privacy considerations that are paramount.
 - Current Alliance minimum = 30
 - CMS uses a less strict standard: 11 or more is the minimum
 - Exception: a numerator of zero should not disallow reporting
 - Formulating recommendation could require testing rules against the Alliance database.

Upcoming Activities:

- HEC input on minimums sample size rules will be shared with the QIC in December, when they take this matter up for possible revision recommendations.