Guiding principles for development of Oregon healthcare quality & efficiency standards
*** Proposal for Quality & Efficiency Subcommittee discussion 4-29-10 ***

Purpose

Measuring and setting goals for performance is intended to drive improvements in Oregon's health care delivery and health promotion systems by:

- Informing agenda-setting and educating policy decisions
- Providing feedback to assist providers and purchasers in their quality improvement efforts
- Improving accountability and consumer engagement through external and/or public reporting

Approach

- Focus on what can be practically and usefully measured in the short term but also consider longer-term goals, so that the short-term work moves Oregon in the right direction.
- Similarly, make use of the best data sources and measurement methodologies that are currently available, while also identifying sources and systems that may provide better information in the future (e.g. electronic health information exchanges).
- Collaborate and maximize alignment with the wide range of health care quality & efficiency stakeholders: the providers and systems being measured, other state entities and Health Policy Board committees, private partners, consumers, and other interested parties.
- Balance the benefit of collecting and reporting quality or efficiency information against the burden it may create for providers and healthcare systems.
- Prioritize transparency, both in the measures and standards identified as well as the process for identifying them.

Measures

To the extent possible, measures and standards should:

- be nationally validated/approved
- allow for meaningful comparisons to other states or systems
- focus on outcomes (as opposed to process or structural measures)
- allow for assessment of inequities

Criteria for selecting measures and standards should include:

- Impact – does the condition or topic being measured have a significant impact on health or health costs?
- Improvability – can we reasonably expect to improve performance in this area?
- Performance variation – is there a wide degree of variation on performance on this measure?
- Inclusiveness – is the measure relevant to a large range of individuals, health conditions, and healthcare settings or providers?

Sources

- Incentives & Outcomes Committee charter
- Oregon Health Fund Board Quality Institute Workgroup report to Delivery Systems Committee
- Consumer-Purchaser Disclosure Project: 7 Key Measurement Issues
- Minnesota Dept. of Health - final recommendations on quality measures for public reporting
- QualityCorp Guiding principles for health care quality measurement and reporting initiative

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