

Summary of Dental Metrics Workgroup Presentation to the Metrics & Scoring Committee 12/18/13

On December 13, 2013, Patrice Korjenek and Eli Schwarz presented the Dental Quality Metrics Workgroup recommended measures and benchmarks to the Metrics & Scoring Committee. They provided an overview of workgroup membership, charge, and process used to develop the recommendation.

They highlighted some of the discussions the workgroup had, including:

- The lack of national, standardized dental measures;
- Developmental work on dental measures by the Dental Quality Alliance;
- Sealants provided through DCOs and through the state school-based sealant program;
- Risk assessments;
- Additional population analysis (e.g., adults with disabilities, SPMI).

The Committee asked a number of questions, including:

- Whether or not the recommended measures were HEDIS;
- How the measures were coded (and which provider types were included);
- How the school-based sealant program and Medicaid services and data are related or overlap;
- What the evidence-base behind some of the recommended measures is (sealants and fluoride varnish).

The Committee discussed the lack of standardized measures for dental outcomes. The Committee was particularly interested in measures such as “improved oral health”, “school absenteeism due to dental pain”, “retaining teeth as long as possible” or “not having new cavities from one visit to the next.”

The Committee also briefly touched on whether dental measures should be pediatric or adult (or both), and whether dental metrics should be determined based on dental as a line of CCO business, or based on how oral health affects members’ lives and health outcomes.

The Committee was very interested in whether or not the recommended dental metrics aligned with other metrics, with priority populations, and with the quality improvement focus areas for CCOs. The Committee highlighted the importance of measures that would “force” cooperation between dental and medical, to further integration and drive performance improvement.

The Committee did not make a decision about the recommended dental metrics in their December meeting, and have requested additional information for consideration at their next meeting, including:

- Exact methodology and specifications (including list of codes) for each of the recommended measures.
- Baseline data at the DCO level for the recommended measures.
- Opportunities for dental metrics to align with current CCO measures, populations of interest, and other quality improvement efforts.

OHA will compile the measure specifications and baseline data, and proposes bringing the Dental Quality Metrics Workgroup back together in January and early February for further discussion / regrouping on metrics alignment.

The Dental Quality Metrics Workgroup is invited to attend the February Metrics & Scoring Committee meeting (February 21, 2014 from 1:00 – 4:00 pm) to continue the discussion.

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