



Physician Alliance

Issue 1

Newsletter

2008

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Greetings and Welcome

NYQA Physician Alliance Newsletter

This is the first version of the NYQA Physician Alliance Newsletter. It is our goal to familiarize you with a New York State Department of Health Pay-for-Performance Grant, the New York Quality Alliance, and the Physician Alliance. Let's us begin by providing you with some background information defining and clarifying these important terms.

In 2005 state legislation created a Pay for Performance (P4P) Demonstration program to facilitate multi-payer collaboratives. The statute directed the Commissioner of Health to convene a workgroup of providers and payors to develop a list of clinical measures and metrics to measure provider performance and to support up to five competitively bid demonstration projects involving multiple payors using the list of measures developed by the workgroup. The workgroup agreed on a set of hospital and ambulatory measures for the P4P demonstration program and in May, 2006, the Department of Health (DOH) issued a Request for Applications (RFA) for the P4P demonstration program.

In March, 2007 the New York Health Plan Association was notified by the state that the Health plan Association proposal would receive \$3.2 million in state funds as one of the demonstration grants.

The NYQA is a statewide multistakeholder collaborative developed as a part of the DOH grant and is comprised of representatives from 13 health plans, physician groups, businesses, consumers and government. The NYQA is

responsible for developing a uniform data aggregation and reporting process that will promote statewide quality performance improvements among health care practitioners. The overall goal of the statewide NYQA collaborative is to drive desired health outcomes that are consistent with current professional knowledge. Current evidence suggests that quality improvement can be realized through increased use of provider measurement, reporting, and payment incentives designed to promote high quality and efficient care.

The NYQA, borrowing from a successful model employed by the Massachusetts Health Quality Partners, created a **Physician Alliance (PA)** to provide a structured process for physician input. The PA is facilitated by the New York Chapter American College of Physicians and comprised of representatives from primary care organizations; the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Physicians (ACOG) District II, the American Academy of Pediatrics (FAAP) New York State District II, the New York Chapter American College of Physicians (NYACP), the New York State Academy of Family Physicians (NYSAFP), the Medical Society of the State of New York (MSSNY) and with a physician representative from the NYQA. The PA will be responsible for developing educational and training resources, providing educational outreach opportunities, and assisting in meeting the NYQA goals. We look forward to working with all of you.

Sincerely,
Paul Gitman, MD, MACP
Physician Alliance Chair

Did You Know...

- The 13 health plans participating in the NYQA are **Aetna , Affinity Health Plan, CDPHP, CIGNA, Elderplan, GHI HMO, Health Net, HealthNow NY,HIP of New York, Hudson Health Plan, Independent Health, MVP Health Care and Oxford Health Plans.** A subset of these plans provide the NYQA with data to measure provider performance and have also committed to providing incentive payments based on some or all of the quality measures.
- You can **contact your provider representative at the individual healthplan** for additional information.
- **Specific information about these measures** such as their description, best practice clinical guideline, technical specification and coding assistance can be found @ www.nyqa.org; **click on Physician Alliance.**
- There is a **physician office educational power point presentation resource available** @ www.nyqa.org/educational_resources.php that can **help you educate** your partners, nurses, office and billing staff on this quality- pay-for-performance program.
- For additional questions, your staff can go to the " FAQ " section @ www.nyqa.org/qanda.php.
- In addition, the Physician Alliance will be conducting Grand Rounds and Physician Specialty Organization Presentations across New York State. If you would like to register to attend or if you are interested in scheduling a presentation for your area contact **Mary Donnelly** RN, BSN, MPA, New York Chapter American College of Physicians Phone: 1.800.446.9746, or via email: mddonnelly@nyacp.org
- Health plans will be submitting data in a uniform manner and reports will be generated based upon a methodology agreed to by members of the PA.
- Baseline data will be for the 2005-7 period and the measurement period will be 2006-8. Each Plan will determine how to use the report in developing their individual incentive program.
- **No additional office work is required** as long as you are currently billing for all services in order to gain credit for the care.
- The performance **incentive payments will be distributed in 2009**
- It is **important to ready your office practice for other current federal pay-for-performance programs, such as Medicare PQRI.**

The 10 Selected NCQA HEDIS Measures

as determined by the NYSDOH Commissioner's workgroup are:

1. Breast Cancer Screening
2. Chlamydia Testing
3. Cervical Cancer Screening
4. Persistence of Beta-blocker therapy post acute myocardial infarction
5. HbA1c Testing in Diabetics
6. Lipid Measurement in Diabetes
7. Urine Protein Testing in Diabetes
8. Diabetic Eye Exams
9. Appropriate Treatment for Children with Upper Respiratory Infection
10. Appropriate Testing for Children with Pharyngitis



"The future ain't what it used to be." Yogi Berra

How Do P4P Programs Benefit Physicians?

A. It causes physicians to conduct a self assessment of their practice

B. It improves patient care by focusing on redesigning office processes and, improving workflow designs.

C. It provides financial Incentives

D. It drives business

E. It assists in certification and accreditation

requirements

F. It helps physicians prepare for future-Pay-for-performance initiatives.

- All current "reform" plans call for aggressive P4P programs and public quality reporting (this includes all the plans of both Presidential candidates)

- While primary care is the main focus, most other specialties will eventually have P4P programs and/or public reporting of quality data

For more information on the NYQA Physician Alliance visit:
www.nyqa.org/physician_alliance.php

