

Boarding Quality Measures Subgroup
Emergency Department Working Group

February 9, 2024 | 9:00-10:00am

Meeting Minutes

Members present: Johnathan Bankoff, Barbara Cass, Phil Davis, Dock Fox, Renee Malaro, Chris Moore, Anumeha Singh

Others: Melia Allan

Introduction

- Chris called the meeting to order at 9:05
- The group reviewed the minutes from January 11, approved the minutes unanimously

Discussion

CMS Measure Re: Emergency Department Crowding

- Barbara commented that the public comment period is going to shape the metric a lot and encouraged the group to leave comments
- The national measure's measurement period is one calendar year
- The numerator of CMS' proposed measure includes any of the four:
 1. Waiting an hour or longer to be placed in a treatment space
 2. the encounter ended w/o the patient undergoing a completed medical screening examination,
 3. the patient boarded for longer than 4 hours (boarding threshold)
 4. the patient had an ED length of stay longer than 8 hours
- Chris noted that CMS intends to collect metrics on Clinical Care Networks, and hopes that at the state level, more granular data can be collected, ideally by each geographic location

Pilot Data Discussion

- Chris identified that hospitals collect data in different formats across the state, and he would like to generate a measure that is simple but can capture this data and standardize
 - The group looked at boarding data from Yale New Haven Health, showing that ~67% of patients admitted or observed spent more than four hours boarding
 - The group also looked at boarding data collected by the Danbury ED, which uses several thresholds (measured by admit holds)
- Discussion of reporting period
 - Chris shared that he hopes to collect data more frequently than CMS' proposed yearly collection, proposed either monthly or quarterly

- Several members liked monthly, and commented that collecting data more frequently than monthly would not be that useful or feasible
 - The group had consensus for monthly reporting at the state level
- Piloting the data collection in healthcare systems around the state
 - Several members will reach out to their departments and come back with boarding data (numerator and denominator for medical and surgical beds), to help develop a form that could be sent in by hospitals monthly

ED Observation

- Chris asked the group how ED observation may impact the collection of data
- This may be a challenge to collect because each hospital utilizes observation differently
- Johnathan Bankoff recommended excluding ED Observation from data collection

Psychiatric

- Does the group want to use a separate measure for psychiatric – the group will circle back to this at a future meeting
- In pilot data currently, members are excluding psychiatric data for boarding measurement

Closing

- The meeting adjourned at 9:54am