



# FAQ: Statewide Quality Reporting and Measurement System

## **What is the background of the Minnesota Statewide Quality Reporting and Measurement System?**

In 2008 the Minnesota legislature passed the Health Care Reform Act, which required the Commissioner of Health to establish a statewide system for measuring and publicly reporting the quality of health care in a standardized way. The goals of the new system are to:

- create a uniform approach to quality measurement;
- improve transparency by expanding the availability of information about health care quality for both consumers and health care providers; and
- improve the quality of care delivery.

The reporting system will launch in 2010. For more information, see Minnesota Statutes 62U.02.

## **Does this new reporting system apply to my clinic?**

Yes, all of Minnesota's physician clinics must register with the Minnesota Department of Health

(MDH). Clinics may register electronically starting in November 2009 and must be registered by February 10, 2010. Clinics will be required to update their registration on an annual basis.

## **How does my clinic register?**

MN Community Measurement is helping MDH carry out this task. Registration information for clinics can be found on the MN Community Measurement Web site, [www.mncm.org](http://www.mncm.org).

## **What is involved in registering?**

Physician clinics will need to complete the registration process online and will need to supply the names and contact information, board certifications, and National Provider Identifier (NPI) for all physicians and providers in their clinic.

## **What data will my clinic have to submit?**

At a minimum, all physician clinics must complete a health information technology use survey. In 2010 family practice, internal medicine

and endocrinology clinics will be required to report outcome data for diabetes care; and family practice, internal medicine and cardiology clinics will report on cardiovascular care.

## **Where does my clinic submit its data?**

Clinics will submit data directly to MN Community Measurement through its data portal.

## **When does my clinic need to submit its data?**

Data must be submitted for the diabetes care and cardiovascular care measures between January 1, 2010 and February 15, 2010. Data submission for these measures will occur every January and February in the future. The health information technology survey must be completed between February 15, 2010 and March 15, 2010.

## **What are the first measures?**

- The diabetes measure – based on data from 2009 dates of service - focuses on blood sugar

levels less than 8, LDL cholesterol levels less than 100 mg/dl, blood pressure less than 130/80, smoking cessation, and aspirin use for patients over 40 years of age.

- The cardiovascular disease measure – also based on data from 2009 dates of service – is similar to the diabetes measure but does not include the blood sugar component.
- The health information technology survey is an Internet-based survey and will determine how clinics are using information technology to better manage their patients' care.

### **What data elements will my clinic need to submit?**

For each component in the diabetes care and cardiovascular care measures, clinics must submit:

- the number of patients meeting the measure criteria or, if applicable, their patient sample size (the denominator) allocated by primary payer type (Medicare, Minnesota Health Care Program, commercial, uninsured/self-pay),
- the number of patients meeting "optimal care" for each component of the measure, from their full population or in their sample (the numerator) allocated by primary payer type (Medicare, Minnesota Health Care Program, commercial, uninsured/self-pay),
- the calculated rates (numerator/denominator),
- the number of exclusions, and a description of how patients were identified (patient registry, practice management system, EMR).

### **How does my clinic identify the right patients to submit data on?**

Clinics may choose to include all of their patients or a sample of at least 60 patients with an oversample of at least 20 patients.

### **Will the data be risk adjusted?**

The law requires that the data be risk adjusted. The initial approach to adjustment will be by payer type. This means that clinics will need to segment their patient data by primary

payer type (i.e., Medicare, Minnesota Health Care Programs, commercial and uninsured/self-pay) for each measure.

### **Will new measures be added to the system in the future?**

Each year additional measures will be added. MDH will require physician clinics to report beginning in 2011 on the optimal care depression measure based on the PHQ-9 depression scale. This data will be based on care provided in 2010, so clinics should prepare now.

### **What about measures for specialty care?**

It is likely that several specialty measures will be added over the next three to five years.

### **How will the data be used?**

Clinic outcomes will be included in a public report scheduled to be released for the first time on July 1, 2010. The state will also use the measures to develop a quality-based incentive payment system (a pay-for-performance program). The state employee health plan must begin using this quality

incentive payment system by July 1, 2010. In addition, the Commissioner of Human Services must implement the quality incentive payment system for all enrollees in state health care programs to the extent it is consistent with relevant state and federal statutes and rules (Minnesota Statutes 256B.0754).

### **What else should I know?**

The Commissioner of Health is also charged with developing a standardized set of quality measures for use in Minnesota. This means Minnesota clinics can only be required by health plans to submit data on those measures in the standardized set. If clinics and health plans agree to voluntary data submission, they can select measures outside of the standardized set. The goal is to avoid increasing the administrative burden on health care providers and use uniform measures and methods for submission of data.

## Where can I find further information?

If you have questions contact MN Community Measurement at [support@mncm.org](mailto:support@mncm.org). Additional technical advice and information can be found on MN Community Measurement's resources web page at [www.mncm.org](http://www.mncm.org). For questions about the rule or requirements contact MDH at [health.reform@state.mn.us](mailto:health.reform@state.mn.us) or MDH's health reform Web site at [www.health.state.mn.us/healthreform/measurement/](http://www.health.state.mn.us/healthreform/measurement/).

