

Quality Measurement and Health Policy Program



Measuring health care quality is key to improving health outcomes, reducing morbidity and mortality, and increasing the accountability of providers to consumers and purchasers. RTI International is one of the world's leading research institutes in this field. We work with governments, businesses, foundations, universities, and other clients to develop and implement health care quality measures.

Overview

RTI's Quality Measurement and Health Policy (QMaHP) program develops and implements national health care performance measures and data collection vehicles that are aligned across the health care continuum. Our research is highly visible and responsive to recent health care legislation. Our work is regularly integrated into national health policies that assess provider performance and quality, as well as clinical outcomes.

Members of our multidisciplinary research team apply quantitative and qualitative methods to develop process and outcome measures that facilitate transparency and accountability among stakeholders—including providers, consumers, insurers, and government officials. Our research addresses current and emerging quality analytics and payment issues, particularly focusing on harmonization and usability across provider settings. Harmonized measures and health information technology enable data collection across reporting programs and provide the necessary foundation for longitudinal quality comparisons, care coordination, and ultimately improved health outcomes.

Our QMaHP program includes health services researchers, statisticians, epidemiologists, informaticists, behavioral health researchers, cognitive psychologists, and clinicians. We have expertise in policies related to post-acute and long-term care quality and payment. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is our primary client and funds much of our research. Additionally, our research supports the National Quality Strategy and legislative requirements for post-acute care, including the Improving Medicare Post-Acute Care Transformation Act of 2014 and the Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014.

Project Experience

Development and Maintenance of Symptom Management

Measures: The goal of this CMS-funded project is to develop, maintain, implement, and reevaluate quality measures for federal quality reporting programs. This project focuses on process, outcome, and composite quality measures in skilled nursing facilities, nursing homes, inpatient rehabilitation facilities, and long-term care hospitals. Tasks also include developing standardized data collection items and instruments, implementing post-acute care public reporting, and transferring

health information related to electronic Clinical Quality Measures standardization. Quality measures are designed to incentivize care coordination, the adoption of certain clinical practices, and the effective use of resources to increase the value of care. RTI brings expertise to navigate the measure development process from inception to implementation, including gathering stakeholder input, supporting the federal rulemaking process, conducting provider training, and obtaining National Quality Forum endorsement.

Areas of Expertise

Our researchers conduct quantitative and qualitative research, as well as policy analysis; they also provide technical assistance in the following areas:

- **Science of measure development**, specializing in post-acute care quality measure development
- **Provider cross-setting measure design and implementation**, resulting in measures that are harmonized and interoperable across health care settings
- **Standardized data item development**, including the Continuity Assessment Record and Evaluation (CARE) Tool
- **Provider performance measurement** from conceptualization through implementation
- **Program evaluation design** using a mixed-methods approach
- **Public policy evaluation**, including national large-scale demonstrations
- **Measure testing and validation**, including tests of statistical reliability and validity
- **Performance measure reporting** to providers and the public
- **Quality measure maintenance**, including evaluation of threats to reliability and validity, changes over time, unintended consequences, and risk adjustment

More Information

Laura Smith, PhD

Program Director, Division of eHealth, Quality, and Analytics

781.434.1733

lsmith@rti.org

Julie Seibert, PhD

Deputy Program Director, Division of eHealth, Quality, and Analytics

919.316.3370

jseibert@rti.org

RTI International

3040 E. Cornwallis Road, PO Box 12194

Research Triangle Park, NC 27709-2194 USA

www.rti.org/qm

RTI 10126 R4 0617



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