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|  | Participation Agreement |  |

(Organization) and Alliant Quality, the QIN-QIO (Quality Innovation Network – Quality Improvement Organization) for Georgia and North Carolina, agree to collaborate between the present date and July 31, 2019, on the following initiatives**(s)** sponsored by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). Please indicate your intent to participate with Alliant Quality by checking the box below for your chosen initiative(s).

*Goal*: Healthy People, Healthy Communities: Improving the Health Status of Communities

**Improving Cardiac Health and Reducing Cardiac Healthcare Disparities:** The QIN QIO will convene medical practices, patients, community partners, and medical associations to join a leaning and action network (LAN) called, ***The Cardiac Health and Disparities Learning and Action Network***. The collaborative endeavor will engage participants in testing interventions to improve management of the Million Hearts Initiative measures and identify health disparities: aspirin therapy, blood pressure control, cholesterol control, and smoking cessation counseling. Medical practices participating in the cardiac quality improvement will submit ABCS via a PQRS aligned EHR.

**Participants may join as a  Network Participant *OR*  Cardiac Improvement and Network Participant**

***Improving Prevention Coordination through Meaningful Use of HIT and Collaborating with Regional Extension Centers:*** The QIN-QIO will facilitate a ***Preventive Health and HIT Learning and Action Network*** (LAN) for eligible professionals, eligible hospitals, and critical access hospitals challenged in meeting the EHR Incentive Program requirements due to HIT disparities in their community. The LAN will support organizations in effective use of clinical decision support, meeting meaningful use clinical quality measures reporting requirements, promoting patient and family engagement through use of patient portals, and provide technical assistance on strategies to optimization of the EHR to track and improve cardiac population health and preventive health screenings.

**Participants may join as a  Network Participant *OR*  CQM Improvement and Network Participant**

*Goal: Make Care More Affordable*

***Quality Improvement through Value-Based Payment, Quality Reporting, and the Physician Feedback Reporting Program:*** The QIN-QIO will assist organizations in successfully reporting to Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS), Value Based Modifier Program (VM), and the Value Based Purchasing program (VBP). Eligible professionals, eligible hospitals, critical access hospitals, inpatient psychiatric facilities, PPS-exempt cancer hospitals, and ambulatory surgical centers challenged in meeting quality data reporting requirements will receive technical assistance in improving VBP measures, best practices on how to avoid PQRS and VM payment adjustments, and assistance with Quality and Resource Use Reports (QRUR) analysis and interpretation

# Confidentiality

A healthcare quality improvement project is considered a quality review study, defined in 42 CFR Section 480.101(b) of federal regulations as being “an assessment, conducted by or for the QIO, for the purpose of improving patient care through peer analysis, intervention, resolution of the problem and follow-up.” Federal regulations at 42 CFR Section 480.140 protect the identities of individual patients, practitioners, and institutions that participate in such studies, and prohibit, with few exceptions, Alliant Quality from disclosing any specific information about their work on quality review studies.

# Consent to Share Data

This consent to share data does not cover patient-identifiable information or information that implicitly or explicitly identifies a patient. Patient information should not be transmitted to Alliant Quality for any reason.

*The Organization hereby acknowledges and consents to*

* Release of the Organization’s name to other affiliated participants in the quality improvement project
* Alliant Quality’s sharing of aggregate performance data with all participants in the quality initiatives stated above to facilitate sharing, learning, and improvement of patient care

## Acceptance

We understand this is a non-binding agreement that may be amended by mutual written consent and may be terminated at any time by either party.

The executive leadership of our organizations has reviewed this agreement and expectations to ensure that we are able to make an ongoing commitment throughout the course of the project. Please sign and return all pages of the Participation Agreement by fax to: Elisabeth Klemis at (678) 527-3030 or (678)-527-3025.

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| ***For Organization:*** |  | ***For Alliant Quality:*** |
| *Signature of Authorized Representative Date* |  | *Signature of QIN-QIO Representative Date* |
| *Printed Name Title* |  | *Printed Name* |
| *Organization Name CCN* |  | ***Contact:* Tara McAdoo, MSM - (678) 527-3673  Alliant Quality Physician Initiatives Task Lead**  **Georgia and North Carolina**  [**tara.mcadoo@alliantquality.org**](mailto:tara.mcadoo@alliantquality.org)  **1455 Lincoln Parkway Ste. 800 Atlanta, GA 30346** |
| *Email Address Telephone* |  |
| *Tax ID Organizational NPI* |  |
| *EHR Version* |  |

## Roles and Responsibilities

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| ***Organization commitments*** | ***Alliant Quality commitments*** | |
| **Staff resource allocation for participation**   * Identify individual staff to work with Alliant Quality on a regular basis, including through phone calls, site visits, teleconferences, and webinars. * Designate at least two staff members to serve as Organization’s project team and one individual to be  Alliant Quality’s primary contact for this project. * Update Alliant Quality immediately with staffing or organizational changes that relate to this project/ project team | **Communications primary contact**   * Designate one staff member to be the primary Alliant Quality liaison for the quality initiatives   **Technical assistance**   * Provide quality improvement technical assistance and consultation to facilitate achievement of project goals/objectives. Example: * Provide training in EHR data reporting and quality improvement methodologies   + Provide training on PQRS reporting and VM reporting requirements   + Provide training on QRUR reports and analysis of results | |
| **Quality improvement activities**   * Implement an improvement plan and monitor performance * Complete required training elements * Collaborate with other project participants  (e.g., share tools, experiences, barriers, and results) * Actively participate in local, regional, and national project meetings (webinars, teleconferences, etc.) | **Leadership for LAN interactions and activities**   * Alliant Quality will develop, implement, and facilitate a learning  and action network (LAN) comprising community health centers, medical practices, medical associations, and other community stakeholders in collaboration   + Coordinate LAN meetings: one face-to-face meeting per year  and at least two virtual meetings per year   + Provide tools and best organization examples   + Facilitate networking, learning and sharing among LAN participants | |
| **Data management**   * Collect and record, and clinical quality data for each eligible patient that meets the clinical measure specifications * Report clinical quality measures data to Alliant Quality on a monthly basis * Report team progress through a quarterly report of findings and results of interventions * Utilize the PQRS or Meaningful use data reports to track  and monitor changes in performance | **Data reporting and performance feedback**   * Prepare data reports that compare performance with other providers. | |
| **Clinical and process measure improvement**   * Commit to achieving meaningful improvement * Adopt proven quality improvement methodologies and process improvement strategies to improve clinical outcomes | **Action plan support**   * Assist in the development of a provider-specific action plan to achieve quality improvement goals. | |
| **Sustainability of results**   * Implement and document processes during the project to support standardization and sustain improvement * Designate a champion/QI team to oversee standardization and spread | **Tools and resources**   * Provide access to relevant information, best  organization resources, and tools to support improvement. | |
| This material was prepared by GMCF, for Alliant Quality, the Medicare Quality Innovation Network – Quality Improvement Organization for Georgia and North Carolina, under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The contents presented do not necessarily reflect CMS policy. Publication No. 11SOW-GMCFQIN-QIO-14-08 | |  |