

Contact

The PCPI Foundation

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**Mathematica, PCPI and Partners
Awarded \$24 Million CMS Contract for Next Generation of
Electronic Clinical Quality Measures (eCQMs)**

Five-year agreement calls for developing, specifying and maintaining eCQMs to be used for reporting by eligible clinicians participating in Medicare, Medicaid and other CMS programs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHICAGO, November 4, 2019 – Under a contract awarded by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), the PCPI® Foundation, a national leader in clinician-level quality measurement and improvement, will play an important role in developing the next generation of electronic clinical quality measures (eCQMs).

Intended for electronic data collection, these eCQMs will be used by physicians and other eligible clinicians (EC) to report outcomes using certified electronic health record systems (EHRs) to CMS health programs.

The measures form the basis of performance-based payment arrangements CMS uses to incentivize better care. More importantly, they will provide actionable clinical data for directly improving patient care and outcomes. The goal is to make measures that can rely on quality data that is collected as part of the routine delivery of care and as seamless as possible.

The measures will be designed to be as broadly applicable as possible so they can be reliably used by CMS and all organizations interested in improving outcomes. eCQMs will be developed to leverage data directly collected by EHRs, as well as by specifying how existing paper-based clinical quality measures (CQMs) can be reliably collected from EHR data. eCQMs facilitate the interoperability of clinical data important in the shift toward innovative care delivery and payment models in value-based care.

Led by Mathematica, PCPI is a key player on a team for the five-year, \$24 million CMS contract. Additional team members are the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA), Lantana, Telligen and Amenity consulting groups. Also joining the team is Upstream Health as part of Hennepin Healthcare, a Minnesota-based integrated delivery system.

“This distinguished team brings a wealth of technical, policy and practical experience to bear on the critically important task of creating eCQMs,” said PCPI Vice President and Chief Scientific Officer Marjorie Rallins, DPM. “As the cornerstone of universal quality measurement and improvement, it is

essential that eQMs are valid, uniform, practical and, most important, clinically relevant, across the wide range of ambulatory care providers and settings.”

“We are delighted to partner with PCPI on this project which is a continuation of Mathematica’s work to develop and maintain eQMs for the Quality Payment Program and former EHR Incentive Program,” said Christine Holland, senior researcher at Mathematica and project director.

As part of the contract, CMS also requires the team to develop a plan for managing CQMs and eQMs, develop and design them using standardized tools and electronic communication protocols, and extensively test and revise them.

“These eQm requirements play to PCPI’s strengths. We are the leading developer of clinician-level quality measures and have developed much of the methodology for validating and standardizing them. Our extensive experience developing and maintaining measures for clinical specialty societies helps ensure that they are clinically useful and minimize interference with clinical workflow,” Dr. Rallins said. “We are proud and excited to help our partners and stakeholders develop these powerful tools for improving patient care at the national level.”

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About the PCPI Foundation

Founded in 2000 by the AMA and independent since 2017, the PCPI Foundation is a national leader in developing and maintaining clinical quality measures and data definitions, clinical registry development and clinical quality improvement. Our members include more than 60 physician specialty and allied health profession societies, as well as patient advocacy, business and health system groups, and health IT providers and insurers. Dedicated to optimizing patient health outcomes, PCPI engages physicians, clinicians and key stakeholders to improve care through integrated performance measurement and clinically rich data to address shared health care quality challenges.

About Mathematica

Mathematica applies expertise at the intersection of data, methods, policy, and practice to improve well-being around the world. We collaborate closely with public- and private-sector partners to translate big questions into deep insights that improve programs, refine strategies, and enhance understanding.

For more information on PCPI’s mission, activities and member benefits, visit www.thepcpi.org