



TO: Interested Parties

FROM: Patrick Dahill, Assistant Vice President, Policy

DATE: December 20, 2010

RE: NCQA Relative Resource Use Data Architecture Redesign for HEDIS 2012

NCQA has designed a new data collection platform for HEDIS 2012 Relative Resource Use (RRU) measures to improve our customer experience. This memo outlines how improvements to the RRU measures in HEDIS 2012, including the introduction of the hierarchical condition category (HCC) risk adjustment methodology, will affect the RRU data architecture for the 2012 data collection season.

The change in the risk-adjustment methodology, among other frequency count changes, will increase the size of the RRU data set (i.e., the number of data points collected and reported in each measure) and will introduce over 48,000 new data variables. Because continuing with the current format for data collection would introduce great risk and burden for parties working with RRU data (including the burden of trying to code and manage these variables), NCQA redesigned how RRU measures are collected and extracted. The new structure defines a set of global meta-data points for each measure and requires the use of XML, a widely used industry standard for data submission. The increase in the number of data variables makes it impractical for our customers to manually enter and “view” data sets this large, so NCQA will no longer provide user interface (UI) data presentations for RRU measures.

At this time, we are releasing only the structure of the new data architecture design (refer to the attached document). We will release the RRU measure specifications, with proposed changes, during the Public Comment period that will begin in February 2012. We will also release the XML Schema Definition (XSD) so organizations can initiate RRU programming decisions in advance.

NCQA is exploring the future application of the new data collection platform to all HEDIS measures, but has not committed to a timeline at this point. The platform currently applies only to the HEDIS 2012 RRU measures.

As always, we appreciate your comments and ongoing support of HEDIS. Please submit related inquiries to the Policy Clarification Support (PCS) system at the following link: www.ncqa.org/pcs.

Attachment