New Measures for HEDIS®2019

Each year, between February and May, data from the prior calendar year is collected on a number of standardized quality measures. Most of these measures remain the same year after year: preventive screenings, immunizations, and treatment of chronic conditions such as diabetes and hypertension. Occasionally, measures may be retired and new measures are added. Below are a few of the new or changed measures the National Committee on Quality Assurance (NCQA) has added for HEDIS®2019:

- **Risk of Continued Opioid Use** looks at the percentage of members 18 years of age and older who have a new episode of opioid use that puts them at risk for continued opioid use. Two rates are reported:
  - The percentage of members whose new episode of opioid use lasts at least 15 days in a 30 day period.
  - The percentage of members whose new episode of opioid use lasts at least 31 days in a 62 day period.

  NOTE: A lower rate indicates better performance

- **Hospitalization Following Discharge from a Skilled Nursing Facility** looks at: for members 18 years of age and older, the percentage of skilled nursing facility discharges to the community that were followed by an unplanned acute hospitalization for any diagnosis within 30 and 60 days. Data are reported in the following categories:
  - Count of skilled nursing facility discharges to the community
  - Count of observed 30-day hospitalizations
  - Count of expected 30-day hospitalizations
  - Count of observed 60-day hospitalizations
  - Count of expected 60-day hospitalizations

- **Adult Immunization Status** looks at the percentage of members 19 years of age and older who are up-to-date on recommended routine vaccines for influenza, tetanus and diphtheria (Td) or tetanus, diphtheria and acellular pertussis (Tdap), zoster and pneumococcal.

- **Prenatal Immunization Status** looks at the percentage of deliveries in the measurement period in which women received the influenza and tetanus, diphtheria toxoids and acellular pertussis (Tdap) vaccinations.

  NOTE: The Adult Immunization Status and Prenatal Immunization Status measures will only be collected from Electronic Medical Records. If you have questions about these new measures, please contact the Quality Improvement Department at 757-252-8400 or 1-844-620-1015.

**Improving Quality of Care (HEDIS®)**

As physicians, you can help improve quality of care by:

- Encouraging your patients to schedule preventive exams
- Reminding your patients to follow up with ordered tests and procedures
- Making sure necessary services are being performed in a timely manner
- Submitting claims with proper HEDIS® codes
- Accurately documenting all services and results (if appropriate) in the patient's medical chart

We need to work together to improve and maintain higher quality of care. When our members are healthy, everyone benefits!