



Hot Off the Press: Connections to Key Quality Publications

Hot Off the Press seeks to connect the reader to the most relevant and recent trials, reviews and commentaries related to health care quality within a focus on medication- and pharmacy-related topics.

Topic: Oncology Quality Measurement

- **Citation:** Valuck T, Blaisdell D, Dugan DP, et al. Improving Oncology Quality Measurement in Accountable Care: Filling Gaps with Cross-Cutting Measures. *J Manag Care Spec Pharm.* 2017;23(2):174-181.
- **Description:** Measure gaps have been identified in patient populations with specific cancers. This serves as an opportunity for growth in the measure development field, as there is a clear need for new measures to be developed and implemented. The study draws attention to the gaps in measures, as there are very broad measures being applied to oncology as a whole, when there need to be measures developed specific to the cancer diagnosis. The Pharmacy Quality Alliance was commended in the article for the work they have done to create adherence measures that can be utilized in the oncologic populations, stating that PQA "...worked to develop adherence measures that could also be developed as cross-cutting cancer measures..." This article continues to point out how there has been a focus on the medication adherence of not just the classic parenteral chemotherapy medications, but also the oral therapies, which are gaining prevalence in the treatment of cancer. Critically looking at the disease state and identifying areas in which measures could be developed, this

article calls attention to the need for more medication-related measures that can be applicable to cancer patients, while also highlighting the work that has been done by organizations such as PQA in promoting optimal health through the quality of medication use. With the known gap in measures of oral oncolytics, PQA continues to explore measure development opportunities in this area, including measures that could fit within CMMI's Oncology Care Model and other programs.

Topic: Expanded Medicaid Leads to Better Quality of Care

- **Citation:** Cole MB, Galárraga O, Wilson IB, Wright B, Trivedi AN. At Federally Funded Health Centers, Medicaid Expansion Was Associated With Improved Quality Of Care. *Health Aff (Millwood)*. 2017;36(1):40-48.
- **Description:** At Federally Funded Health Centers across the country, the expansion of Medicaid was shown to have a positive impact on the quality of care received by patients. Using quality measures from 2013, the study took a look at 2011-2104 data and determined that the quality of care increased in these systems. These quality measures could be traced back to what the Health Resources and Service Administration used to determine quality during that time. Since the expansion of Medicaid, PQA has taken strides to develop measures focused on the quality of care received by patients across the country, specifically honing in on medication use. Recently, a PQA measure was added to the Medicaid Adult Core Set to help measure the quality of care for patients in that population. The measure now included addresses the use of opioids at high dosage.