NEW YORK
state department of
HEALTH

Howard A. Zucker, M.D., J.D.
Acting Commissioner of Health

Sue Kelly
Executive Deputy Commissioner

October 30, 2014

RE: Clarification #1 for 2015 Quality Assurance Reporting Requirements Technical Specifications

Dear Colleague:

This clarification contains information about changes made to the 2015 Quality Assurance Reporting Requirements (QARR) Technical specifications manual (dated October 8, 2014). The information contained in this clarification has been incorporated into a new version of the 2015 QARR manual. This revised 2015 QARR Technical Specification Manual (dated October 20, 2014) is attached to this letter and is available on our public web site http://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/managed_care/plans/index.htm. The revised manual should be used in plans' processing for 2015 QARR. Listed below are the changes:

1. Qualified Health Plans should follow all Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) guidance on reporting the quality measures outlined in the Quality Rating System Measure Technical Specifications. For those measures in QARR that are not listed in the CMS Quality Rating System Measure Technical Specifications, Qualified Health Plans (QHPs) should follow the HEDIS Volume 2 Technical Specifications, for the commercial product line.

2. CMS requires that Qualified Health Plans submit data separately by product type (HMO, POS, PPO, and EPO). We are asking that this data is submitted in the same manner to New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) for 2015 QARR. Follow this guidance using Table 1 of the manual:
   - The column labeled as Qualified Health Plan Health Maintenance Organization (QHMO) would apply to both QHP Health Plan Health Maintenance (HMO) and Point-of-Service (POS) product types
   - The column labeled as Qualified Health Plan Preferred Provider Organization (QPPO) would apply to both Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) and Exclusive Provider Organization (EPO) product types.
   - The specific product type options have added to the relevant fields for the live birth file and member-level file specifications.

3. Several measures or numerators of measures are retired per HEDIS® 2015 Technical Specifications (Volume 2, page 2). The 2015 QARR measurement retirement section (page 6), and the member-level file specifications is updated to reflect these changes. The measures being retired include:
   - Annual monitoring for members on anticonvulsants rate, and
   - Comprehensive Diabetes Care indicators: LDL-C screening, LDL-C control (<100 mg/dL) and BP control (<140/80 mm Hg).

4. Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) Vaccine for Female Adolescents was not rotated per HEDIS® 2015. Table 1 of the QARR Technical Specifications Manual is updated to reflect that this is a required measure for 2015 QARR.

5. The Member-Level file specifications (pages 36-58) include changes to resolve discrepancies in the notation of the rotated and retired measures.

6. Columns 235 - 238 of the Member-Level file are revised. The column indicating 'Numerator for the Non-Recommended PSA screening' has been removed and the remaining columns are re-numbered accordingly.

If there are any questions about the information contained in this clarification, please feel free to contact me at (518) 486-9012 or via email at nysqarr@health.ny.gov.

Sincerely,

Lindsay M Cogan

Lindsay Cogan
Director
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Enclosure

cc: Mr. Roohan
Mr. Anarella
Dr. Gesten
Ms. Roberts
Ms. Schettine