

**June 2014**

Quality Leads

Progress Notes from the CMO
Dr. Georgean deBlois



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Dear VQCP Physician Members,

Welcome to the first edition of ***Quality Leads: Progress Notes from the CMO***, an e-newsletter I will be sending to all network physicians and providers.

Good communication plays a vital role in every high-performing clinically integrated network. We know communication is a two-way street -- VQCP will make a dedicated effort to keep its members informed through this newsletter and by email and phone calls. You, the physicians, will only benefit from the communication if you read the emails and return phone calls when requested. We also want to hear from you regarding your questions and feedback. Our line is always open!

In addition to *Quality Leads*, I will be communicating with a physician that has been identified from every practice/pod as a '**Physician Champion**'. This will enable me to deliver key information directly to the Physician Champion with the expectation that they will amplify that message throughout their practice.

You are Virginia Quality Care Partners. Only through the continued efforts of its physician members can VQCP continue to thrive and grow.

We welcome your questions and feedback. Please call me at any time.

***Appreciatively,
Gigi***

2014 Quality and Performance

Quality Results

First quarter 2014 PQRS stats are in. VQCP shows significant improvement in a number of both reporting and performing metrics compared to 2013.

- The number of poorly controlled diabetics (HgbA1c >9) is 12% lower than the commercially insured benchmark.
- Over 30,000 individuals have received appropriately documented screening for colon cancer.
- Over 78,000 individuals screened for influenza immunization. Practices that missed this metric January-March 2014 will have another opportunity October-December 2014!

Performance Plan

The network must report on 60% of applicable patients as a whole before any individual practitioners, who also must report on a minimum of 60% of patients with metrics applicable to their specialty, are eligible for an incentive bonus. I recommend that you login to track your own reporting progress.

Performance is key to the success of a high-value network. The higher the reporting, the more meaningful the performance numbers. Only by driving performance can we improve outcomes.

Progress Reports

How will you know how you are reporting and performing? Beginning in late May, monthly 'Progress Reports' were emailed to all practice managers detailing the overall performance of the practice as well as individual practitioners. Your individual metrics are now available in Crimson. Simply login, click the "Ambulatory" tab, and adjust the "Focus Feature" to reflect the period of interest, currently Jan 2014-April 2014.

Review your personal data. Talk to your colleagues and office staff. If your reporting/performance is stellar, share your best practices and processes. If you have opportunity for improvement, ask what others are doing and how they are doing it. VQCP physicians hold themselves and the network accountable for quality metrics. Excellent performance leads to improved outcomes...this is the key that unlocks the value in a high-performance network.

2015 Quality Program

As the Quality Committee begins to develop the Quality Metrics for 2015, please give thought to what performance metrics capture quality for your specialties. Obesity, diabetes, hypertension and depression are among the conditions that drive medical costs and raise concern for employers and third-party payers. Think about the value that driving performance on these conditions can bring to patients, employers, third-party payers. Payers and employers are also looking at improved prevention and screening as a way to maintain good health or treat conditions early before they become more costly.

Network Update

New Contracts

VQCP has signed two new contracts with Optima and Coventry in addition to the HCA contract. The Optima contract will add 20,000 plan members and Coventry will add 18,000. Including the current HCA contract, VQCP will have close to 50,000 members under network care in Central Virginia.

This year's incentive payments will be based upon the 12 month reporting period Jan 1 - Dec 31, 2014. This is the last year that VQCP will be paid for reporting quality data. As a high-value network, we must already be reviewing performance, and we anticipate that 2015 contracts will be performance/outcomes based.

NPs and PAs Join VQCP

The VQCP Board of Managers approved the addition of mid-level providers to the network. This allows increased access for patients under network care. The network requirements are the same for the mid-level providers including credentialing and the reporting of the PQRS quality coding, and they must be in an ongoing collaborative relationship with a participating VQCP physician. Their performance will be included as part of the network's overall performance in determining individual and practice-wide incentive payment.

Dr. Turner Honored

Dr. John Turner, a VQCP Board Member, was the recipient of the Frist Humanitarian Award, the highest award given by HCA. He was honored for his service as a role model, coach, and advocate for the nonprofit organization, Sportable. The organization creates opportunities for individuals with physical and visual disabilities to participate in adaptive sports and recreation opportunities in Richmond.



Each year, the Frist Humanitarian Awards are given to an employee, volunteer and physician from each HCA-affiliated hospital. The awards, created in 1971, honor individuals for their outstanding humanitarian and volunteer activities in recognition of the caring spirit and philanthropic work of the late Dr. Thomas Frist, Sr., a founder of HCA.

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