



Quest Physician Update

May 2010



Gail Amundson, MD, FACP
CEO, Quality Quest for Health of Illinois

Transforming Healthcare-Together.

Dear Colleagues,

Quality Quest has reached an important milestone. We have performance results for a number of nationally standardized quality measures available for many primary care practices in central Illinois that will be available for preview by June 15th.

The measures were developed by NCQA and are commonly referred to as HEDIS measures. Many health plans report HEDIS measures but results have not been widely available for physician practices in Illinois.

- **Well child care** measures how frequently babies have 6 well-care visits by age 15 months.
- **Treatment of children with upper respiratory infections** measures how often children with URI avoided a prescription for antibiotics.
- **Testing of children with sore throats** assesses the practice of testing for strep before prescribing antibiotics
- **Follow-up care for children prescribed medicine for ADHD** tracks whether they had a follow-up appointment with the person who started them on medication.
- **Chlamydia screening**, recommended for young sexually active women, tracks how often that occurs.
- **Cervical cancer screening** tracks how many women between the ages of 21 and 64 have had a Pap test in the past three years.
- **Breast cancer screening** measures whether women between the age of 40 and 69 have had a mammogram in the past two years. The lower age of this measure is likely to change to reflect the updated evidence-based screening recommendations.
- **Monitoring of patients on chronic medications** reports the consistency with which patients taking an ACE, ARB, anticonvulsant, diuretic or digoxin have appropriate blood tests.
- **Use of appropriate medications for people with asthma** reports the rate of use of controller medications in patients with chronic persistent asthma.
- **LDL-C testing** looks at the percentage of patients with an ischemic vascular condition who have a full lipid panel.
- **Diabetes measures** include regular dilated screening retinal exams, A1c testing, LDL-Chol testing and screening for nephropathy.
- **Adult bronchitis** measures how often antibiotic treatment is avoided.

Lack of performance information has been a missing link in healthcare. As one expert said, *“Trying to improve something when you don’t have a means of measurement and performance standards is like setting out on a cross-country trip in a car without a fuel gauge. You can make calculated guesses and assumptions based on experience and observations, but without hard data, conclusions are based on insufficient evidence.”*

Primary care practices in central Illinois will now have a basic ‘fuel gauge’ for several common conditions. Practices are encouraged to preview their results on our secure data portal before the results are made publicly available by registering for a secure data portal account at www.Data.QualityQuest.org. Thank you for all you do to make patient care better and safer. Together, we are transforming healthcare.