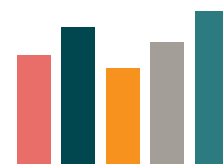


# MEASUREMENT MINUTE

News from MN Community Measurement



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December 2020

## MARC Update

The Measurement and Reporting Committee (MARC) met in early December to finalize the recommendation for public reporting as well as the slate of measures for the 2020 measurement year. The committee has had several discussions throughout the year regarding the impact of COVID-19 on health care and care delivery, and collected input from community stakeholders to determine the best course of action for public reporting in 2021. Based on this information, the committee sent the following recommendation to the Board of Directors, which was approved during the December Board meeting:

- » Medical group level performance results/ratings will be publicly reported with medical group names
- » All performance results/ratings will have a clear statement cautioning against comparison to previous years because of the potential impact of COVID-19 on performance

Full transparency in public reporting at the medical group level is necessary to determine a new baseline in health care, to understand the impact of COVID-19 on health care processes and outcomes, and to understand where improvements need to be made. However, because of shifts in care, clinic closures, etc. within medical groups, clinic level results/ratings will be privately reported with names to medical groups submitting data and health plans.

The final slate of measures for the 2020 measurement year can be found [here](#).

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## Registration Now Open for MNCM Annual Conference and Pre-Conference Mental Health Summit

The MNCM Annual Conference has been transitioned to a virtual event. This year's theme is *Building Bridges to Better Health*. Major topics include:

- » Addressing the challenges and opportunities related to COVID-19, including forgone care, impacts on equity and disparities, and rapid adoption of telehealth;
- » Affordability and access to appropriate care; and
- » Looking forward and lessons for improving quality and affordability into the future.

Attendees will explore together how we can continue to build on the significant work our community has done to advance improvements in health care quality, equity, and affordability.

In conjunction with its Annual Conference, MNCM is hosting a pre-conference summit on mental health. The summit is intended to bring together an array of community stakeholders – including employers, health care providers and payers, government agencies, and other community organizations – to understand the latest information on trends in mental health as well as outcomes for mental health care. The event will highlight recent learnings from Minnesota providers' experiences in working to improve depression care. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in Community Dialogues to talk about region-specific strategies to advance improvement.

Please access the [conference web page](#) for additional information and [register](#) today!





## Measurement Update

### Optimal Vascular Care Measure Achieves NQF Re-Endorsement

On November 17, the National Quality Forum's Consensus Standards Advisory Committee (CSAC) unanimously voted to re-endorse MNCM's Optimal Vascular Care (OVC) measure. This is the last step in what has been nearly a year-long process in securing re-endorsement of this measure, which included rigorous scrutiny by the scientific methods panel and the cardiovascular committee. Of note, both MNCM's OVC measure and the National Committee for Quality Assurance's (NCQA's) Controlling High Blood Pressure measure were re-endorsed with blood pressure targets at or below 140/90. This has been a topic of some controversy over the past few years given conflicting guidelines for blood pressure targets.

### Data Submission Update for the 2020 Measurement Year

Medical groups can register clinics and providers on the [MNCM Data Portal](#) to prepare for annual data submission of the quality measures. Registration guidance and information can be found on the [MNCM Knowledge Base](#).

Data submission opens on January 11, 2021 and closes according to the following deadlines:

- » **February 12:** Optimal Diabetes Care, Optimal Vascular Care
- » **February 19:** Optimal Asthma Control/Education and Self-Management, Adolescent Mental Health and/or Depression Screening
- » **February 26:** Colorectal Cancer Screening
- » **March 5:** Depression Care

We encourage clinics to register and submit the required pre-submission documentation as soon as possible. Technical measure guides are available for download from the [MNCM Knowledge Base](#). Other data submission forms and resources can be found on the [MNCM Data Portal](#) and [MNCM Academy](#). Please contact [support@mncm.org](mailto:support@mncm.org) with any questions.

Thank you!

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## MNCARES Health Care Homes Enrollment Deadline Approaching – Sign Up by January 31, 2021

HealthPartners Institute, in collaboration with the Minnesota Department of Health and MN Community Measurement, has been awarded \$4 Million of funding from the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)



to study the effect of care coordination on patient outcomes. The partners are pleased to present the Minnesota Care Coordination Effectiveness Study (MNCARES) and outline the important questions it will help the community answer – and encourage you to bookmark the [MNCARES web page](#) hosted by MDH for ongoing updates.

The purpose of MNCARES is to compare two approaches to care coordination for patients with high health care costs and multiple morbidities. The goal is to learn what approaches to care coordination in primary care settings produce the best care quality, utilization, and patient-centered outcomes. The first model includes care coordination performed by a nurse or other clinical staff. The second model includes a social worker as part of the care team.

MNCARES is currently recruiting clinics across the state that are certified as health care homes through MDH. As of December 15, 75% of eligible clinics have agreed to participate. Later in 2021, participating clinics will complete a survey about care coordination and securely provide data about adult care coordination patients.

**Recruitment of clinics will be open through January 31, 2021.**

Please contact Bonnie LaPlante at [bonnie.laplante@state.mn.us](mailto:bonnie.laplante@state.mn.us) if your clinic is interested in participating!



## In Case You Missed It

### RECENT REPORTS RELEASED BY MNMCM:

#### *Health Care Cost & Utilization in 2019*

This report includes analysis of 2019 health care costs for Minnesotans with private health insurance. The report includes information on resource use, price index, and total cost of care (TCOC). It also provides a deeper look at health care utilization and prices for individual services.

#### *Impact of Pharmacist Interventions to Close Care Gaps for Patients with Diabetes*

MN Community Measurement (MNCM) was engaged in December 2018 to design and administer a study focused on measuring the impact of expanding pharmacy-enhanced services in Minnesota to improve health care outcomes for patients with diabetes. The study builds on MNCM's role in the community as a trusted neutral aggregator of data on health care quality and outcomes. This report provides a detailed look at the study goals, the study methods, and the results of the analysis.

### MNCM WEBINAR RECORDINGS AVAILABLE ONLINE

In late October, MNCM launched a series of free webinars to bring stakeholders up to date on the latest developments with several MNCM projects. *Slides and recordings* from these events are available on MNCM's website. The series includes the following webinars:

- » A New Approach to Measurement: Introduction to MNCM's PIPE Data Collection System
- » Health Care Cost and Utilization in Minnesota: A Review of Results from 2019
- » Preparing to Onboard to PIPE: A Detailed Look at the Process and Requirements
- » Expanding the Care Team to Improve Outcomes: Minnesota Evaluation Project Highlights Impact of Pharmacy-Based Interventions

The final webinar in this series is scheduled for January 13:

- » *A New Approach for Data Sharing Among Health Care Payers and Providers*  
**Wednesday, January 13, 2021, 10 to 11 a.m.**

Join MNCM for an introduction to the Common Health Information Reporting Partnership (CHIRP) and the new CHIRP data standards that have been developed collaboratively by health care providers and payers to improve the efficiency and ease of data sharing. This webinar will highlight the types of information that are shared between payers and providers, the importance of standardization, and how this information can be used to improve patient outcomes and coordination of care. Early results of pilot testing of the standards will also be discussed.