

Draft Clinician Expert Workgroup Charter

MACRA Episode-Based Cost Measures Clinician Expert Workgroups, Wave 5

June 2022

Project Title:

MACRA Episode-Based Cost Measures – Wave 5 Clinician Expert Workgroups

Workgroup Expected Time Commitment and Dates:

The nomination period for 3 Clinician Expert Workgroups (hereafter referred to as workgroups) is now open and closes on **July 1, 2022, at 11:59 p.m. ET**. Please submit all nomination materials before the closing date.

Members who submit their nomination materials by the deadline and who are accepted to the workgroups will attend 3 virtual meetings to be held via webinar.

- The first meeting will be a part-day webinar held in July or August 2022 to provide initial input on each component of the episode-based cost measure.
- The second and third meetings are expected to each be a 2-4 hour webinar held in September or October 2022 and in March or April 2023, respectively.

Project Overview:

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has contracted with Acumen, LLC, to develop episode-based cost measures for potential use in the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) to meet the requirements of the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA) of 2015. The contract name is “Physician Cost Measures and Patient Relationship Codes (PCMP).” The contract number is 75FCMC18D0015, Task Order 75FCMC19F0004. As part of its measure development process, Acumen convenes groups of experts and other interested parties who contribute direction and thoughtful input during cost measure development and maintenance.

Project Objectives:

The project’s overall objective is to develop episode-based cost measures suitable for potential use in the Quality Payment Program. For more details about the project background, including development activities undertaken in previous years, please see [this summary](#) on the [MACRA Feedback Page](#).

Workgroup Objectives:

Acumen’s measure development approach has been to convene clinician expert panels called Clinical Subcommittees (CS) and workgroups focused on particular clinical areas in cycles of development (“Waves”).

For Wave 5, Acumen sought input on candidate episode groups through a public comment period in order to: (i) allow more time for individuals, specialty societies, and professional associations to review and provide input, (ii) allow for flexibility around participants’ schedules,

and (iii) widen the range of interested members of the public who can provide feedback on priority clinical areas for Wave 5. This approach replaced the CS process for Wave 5.

The 3 Clinician Expert Workgroups that will be convened in 2022 for Wave 5 are:

- **Kidney Transplant Management, Prostate Cancer, and Rheumatoid Arthritis** workgroups to develop chronic condition episode-based cost measures

Each workgroup will include between approximately 15 and 20 members whose specialty, expertise, or experience is aligned with the focus of the selected episode group and the workgroup composition criteria provided by commenters during the Wave 5 public comment period and previous Waves of development.

The nomination period for these workgroups closes on July 1, 2022.

Specific to these workgroups, the objectives include, but aren't limited to, providing input on the following:

- Episode group trigger codes
- Episode sub-groups (stratifications) to compare like patients (if applicable)
- Services that should be included in the episode-based cost measure
- Risk adjustment variables
- Measure exclusion criteria

Workgroup Requirements:

The 3 workgroups of approximately 15 to 20 individuals each will provide clinical input and advice to the measure development contractor on the specifications and development of the measures. The workgroups will be composed of individuals with differing areas of expertise and perspectives, including the following:

- Physicians, osteopathic practitioners, chiropractors, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, certified registered nurse anesthetists, physical therapists, occupational therapists, qualified speech-language pathologists, qualified audiologists, clinical psychologists, registered dietitians or nutrition professionals, clinical social workers, certified nurse midwives, and other clinicians with experience in the clinical areas listed above
- Individuals with medical credentials relevant to the types of clinicians listed above
- Individuals with familiarity with medical coding (International Classification of Diseases – 10th Revision [ICD-10], Current Procedural Terminology / Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System [CPT/HCPCS], Medicare Severity-Diagnosis Related Groups [MS-DRG])
- Individuals who are board-certified or have other professional certifications, as applicable
- Individuals with experience treating Medicare patients, particularly as relevant to the clinical areas for the Wave 5 cost measures

If you aren't one of the clinician types listed above but believe your input would be valuable for the Wave 5 workgroups, we encourage you to apply. Person and Family Partners (PFPs) will be involved in providing input and participating at workgroup webinars during Wave 5, though they will be recruited via a separate process.

Scope of Responsibilities:

The role of the workgroups is to provide clinical input and advice to the measure development contractor on the clinical specifications and development of episode-based cost measures suitable for potential use in the Quality Payment Program.

Guiding Principles:

Participation as a workgroup member is voluntary and the participants' input will be recorded in the meeting minutes, which will be summarized in a report that may be disclosed to the public. In addition, project staff from CMS may attend the workgroup meetings. If a participant has chosen to disclose private, personal data, then related material and communications aren't deemed to be covered by patient-provider confidentiality. Acumen will answer any questions about confidentiality.

All potential workgroup members must disclose any significant financial interest or other relationships that may influence their perceptions or judgment. It's unethical to conceal (or fail to disclose) conflicts of interest. However, there's no intent for the disclosure requirement to prevent individuals with particular perspectives or strong points of view from serving on the workgroups. The intent of full disclosure is to inform the measure developer, other workgroup members, and CMS about the source of workgroup members' perspectives and how that might affect discussions or recommendations.

All workgroup members should be able to commit to the anticipated timeframe needed to perform the functions of their group. The input and recommendations provided by workgroup members will be considered by the measure development contractor. Workgroup chairs will help facilitate discussion and resolve points of disagreement. Where decisions are needed to provide direction to the contractor for measure development, a vote will be conducted.

Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings:

Members of each workgroup are expected to attend the following meetings and perform the following tasks:

- Review preparatory materials shared ahead of each meeting and complete a pre-meeting survey, if applicable (estimated time between 2 and 4 hours)
- Attend and participate in a part-day virtual meeting in July or August 2022, a 2-4 hour virtual meeting in September or October 2022, and a 2-4 hour virtual meeting in March or April 2023 (exact dates and times will be determined taking into consideration workgroup member availability)
- Vote in a post-meeting survey (estimated time between 1 and 2 hours per meeting)

Date Approved by Workgroup:

To be approved by each workgroup during their first meeting.

Workgroup Membership:

N/A – Draft Charter