

# QUALITY RATING SYSTEM (QRS) AND QUALITY IMPROVEMENT STRATEGY (QIS) TECHNICAL EXPERT PANEL (TEP) CHARTER

## **Project Title**

Development and Evaluation of Exchange Health Plan Quality Initiatives (QRS/QIS)

## **Expected Time Commitment and Dates**

The Quality Rating System/Quality Improvement Strategy (QRS/QIS) TEP will meet semi-annually (01/2026 – 12/2026). TEP members may be asked to participate in one-on-one meetings to discuss QRS and QIS content. All meetings will be held via teleconference.

## **Project Overview**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) contracted Booz Allen Hamilton (Booz Allen) to implement the Development and Evaluation of Exchange Health Plan Quality Initiatives (QRS/QIS) in fulfillment of the statutory and regulatory requirements of 1311(c)(3) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA). The contract name is Development and Exchange of Health Plan Quality Initiatives (QRS/QIS). The contract number is 75FCMC18D0019. As part of its implementation process related to this contract, Booz Allen convenes groups of stakeholders who contribute direction and thoughtful input to the measure developer during measure development and maintenance.

## **Project Objectives**

The objectives of the QRS are outlined below:

- Provide comparable and useful information to consumers about the quality of health care services and enrollee experience with QHPs offered through the Exchanges,
- Facilitate oversight of QHP issuer compliance with quality reporting standards set forth in the PPACA and implementing regulations, and
- Provide actionable information that QHP issuers can use to improve quality and performance.

The objectives of the QIS program are outlined below:

- Implement a payment structure that provides increased reimbursement or other market-based incentives for improving health outcomes of plan enrollees,
- Facilitate oversight of QHP issuer compliance with QIS Technical Guidance, and
- Streamline reporting requirements and introduce strategies to reduce issuer burden with completing QIS forms including the QIS Implementation Plan, Progress Report, and Modification Summary Supplement forms.

## **TEP Objectives**

The TEP will advise on the continued implementation of the QRS and QIS by providing input on topics such as public engagement efforts, guidance materials, data analysis and methodology, and measure set refinements.

## **TEP Requirements**

A TEP of 18-25 individuals will advise Booz Allen on the continued implementation of the QRS and QIS by providing input on topics such as public engagement efforts, guidance materials, data analysis and methodology, and measure set refinements. The TEP will be composed of individuals with differing areas of expertise and perspectives, including: Quality measures and measurement, Consumer/patient advocacy, Clinical experience, Quality Improvement Strategies, Quality rating methodology, Rural health care, National/regional qualified health plans, and State Based Marketplace.

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### Scope of Responsibilities

The TEP will serve an advisory role and will not have decision-making authority over any aspect of QRS and/or QIS technical development, implementation, or rulemaking related to the Exchanges and QHP issuers offered therein. Booz Allen will provide the TEP with information and/or findings and request feedback and recommendations around refining the QRS and QIS. Responsibilities of the TEP include:

- *Commitment.* Make every attempt to attend all scheduled meetings. Accept or decline each meeting invitation and provide timely updates to the TEP coordinator upon any change in status. If unable to fulfill TEP duties on an ongoing basis, please notify the TEP chair or coordinator immediately. Notify TEP coordinator upon any change in organization of employment or representation as these changes may impact TEP participation.
- *Meeting Preparation.* Review and consider the content within the information and questions provided. Arrive at each meeting prepared to provide feedback and recommendations on the distributed materials. Proactively seek to provide input to Booz Allen if unable to attend a meeting.
- *Meeting Engagement.* Offer expertise, share individual/organizational perspectives, and engage in constructive debate to create an open and productive environment. Participate in discussions and activities, such as polling, to develop recommendations for consideration by CMS. TEP members may be asked to lead certain meeting discussions pertaining to their area of expertise.

### Term Lengths

In an effort to gather interested party feedback from varied perspectives, Booz Allen began implementing term lengths for the QRS/QIS TEP in 2024.

Booz Allen will randomly assign TEP members two-, three-, or four-year terms counted from their first year serving on the current QRS/QIS TEP (i.e., 2023 at the earliest). TEP members will have the opportunity to re-apply at the end of their term to continue their participation on the TEP.

In the case a TEP member is unable to serve for the entirety of their term, the TEP member may appoint an alternate member of their organization to serve on the TEP for the remaining duration of the original TEP member's term.

### Guiding Principles

Participation as a TEP member is voluntary and Booz Allen records the participant's input in the meeting minutes, which will be summarized in a report that they may disclose to the public. If a participant has chosen to disclose private, personal data, then related material and communications are not covered by patient-provider confidentiality. Patient/caregiver participants may elect to keep their names confidential in public documents. TEP organizers will answer any questions about confidentiality.

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

The TEP will serve in an advisory role with no decision-making authority. All TEP members must sign and adhere to the terms of the Confidentiality and Disclosure Agreement.

**Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings**

Two meetings between 01/2026 – 12/2026.

**Date Approved by TEP**

TBD

**TEP Membership**

Refer to the QRS/QIS TEP Composition Document Form