maryland
health services
cost review commission

Joshua Sharfstein, MD
Chairman

Joseph Antos, PhD
Vice-Chairman

James N. Elliott, MD

Ricardo R. Johnson

Maulik Joshi, DrPH

Adam Kane, Esq

Nicki McCann, JD

Jonathan Kromm, PhD
Executive Director

William Henderson
Director
Medical Economics & Data Analytics

Allan Pack
Director
Population-Based Methodologies

Gerard J. Schmith
Director
Revenue & Regulation Compliance

Claudine Williams
Director
Healthcare Data Management & Integrity

Date: September 20, 2024

To: Hospital Chief Financial Officers and Case Mix Liaisons

From: Claudine Williams, Principal Deputy Director, HDMI

Subject: **FY 2025 Q1 Data Forum Follow-up**

Thanks to all who participated in the FY 2025 Q1 Data Forum held on September 13, 2024. Below is a summary of what was discussed and next steps.

Announcements

Staff reviewed the grouper versions that will be applied to the IP and OP case mix data for RY 2025 (Slide 5).
- **Case Mix Weights and Market Shift (RY 2025)**: IP Weights 39; OP Weights: 3.17; IP weights use CY 2022 (12 months); OP weights use CY 2022 and Q1 of CY 2023 (15 months). Weights for FY 2024 to be available in the first quarter of CY 2025. These weights are applied to the following policies:
  - CY 2024 6-Months Marketshift
- **Expanding of Denied Admissions Template:** Staff announced they will be revising the Denied Admissions template for FY 2026 that will include more detailed fields aimed at improving data collection.

Quality Update

Staff presented updates on quality-related data initiatives and reviewed the following for CY 2025 (Slides 8-14) :

- Digital Measure Submissions to the HSCRC
- eCQM Reporting Timeline (including required and optional measures for upcoming calendar years)
- HSCRC Hospital-Wide Readmission and Mortality Reporting Requirements (for CY 2024-2025)

SOGI and SDOH Update

Staff provided updates on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) data collection (slides 16-18) Updates on SOGI data collection included:
- SOGI Data Collection Implementation Timeline
- SOGI training sessions
- Edits for SOGI Data Elements

Additionally, staff presented an analysis of the Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) Z-Codes (slides 20-25).

ED LOS Update

Staff provided an update on the Emergency Department Length of Stay (ED LOS) initiative (slide 27-30), covering:

- ED LOS AD HOC submission extensions.
- QBR Measure and Incentive Structure update.
- Establishment of Maryland ED wait time reduction commission.ED LOS measure development plan, interventions to impact ED LOS, ED1 LOS Measure descriptions, methods of data collections, ED LOS Measure required data elements, data submission and reporting timeline, ED LOS Ad hoc data submission instructions, and next steps.

Inpatient Type 2 Diabetes Screening Pilot

HSCRC staff presented an overview of the inpatient type 2 diabetes screening pilot program (slides 32-37). The overview included information on:

- The diabetes screening background.
- Patient eligibility and sampling frames
- Pilot timeline and data integration

Financial Assistance Update

Staff gave an update on the hospital financial assistance policy (slide 39). Effective October 1, 2024, hospitals must update their policies to consider only household assets over $100,000 and exclude certain retirement accounts. The deadline for submission is January 31, 2025.

Financial Data Production Schedule and Extension Reminder

Staff reviewed the details of the FY 2025 financial data production schedule and the process for requesting financial data extensions (slide 41-43). Hospitals have a 30-day extension for filing audited annual reports. Any extensions beyond that will only be granted in emergencies. Revised reports must be submitted in full with an explanation. Late or inaccurate submissions may result in fines or penalties.

CDS-A Reports

Staff reminded all participants that the CDS-A Report is available on the CRISP Portal (slides 45-48). This report allows hospitals to review growth in the cost of outpatient infusion and chemotherapy drug utilization for outlier dosage units based on 3rd Monthly case mix data in CRISP. The expectation is that hospitals will use this information to correct errors prior to submission of Quarterly case mix data. **Please be aware, hospitals will be subject to fines if any material error is found in a hospital's CDS-A audit.**

Data Forum Survey

Staff reminded all meeting participants to complete the survey in Survey Monkey. **The link was sent on September 30**. Please use this opportunity to provide the HSCRC staff feedback on the data forums.

Data Processing Vendor Update
Mary Pohl, representing hMetrix, reported on data processing updates. Mary reminded hospitals to submit monthly and quarterly production data (data that is grouped and used by the HSCRC) to the "Submit folder" in RDS to process the monthly data. hMetrix has instituted automated logic that can determine the type of file submitted. For test data, hospitals should submit to the "Test folder" in RDS. The Test Site is always available for testing (for instance for a new hospital coming on board or a system conversion (slides 50-52).

Rate Center Data Quality Plan
Mary Pohl discussed the new Rate Center Data Quality plan that will be implemented to help hospitals identify and resolve unusual Rate Center Charges promptly. A monitoring tab will be added to the Error Reports, starting FY 2025 Q1 (Oct 2024), with refinements planned by FY 2025 Q4, and potential impact assessments by FY 2026.   Mary also outlined criteria for identifying significant rate centers based on a 12-month lookback period, focusing on outliers in total charges and rate center charges beyond +/- 3 IQR, requiring hospitals to review both current and historical month data (Slide 54-56).

Data Repository Vendor Update
Jen Vogel with the St Paul Group, reminded participants of the recent updates to the Repository Data Submission (RDS) site, including mapped drive functionality, SFTP capability, and the password reset portal. Jen also gave an update on the St. Paul Group iSS ED LOS Ad-Hoc error report (slides 58-60).

Case Mix Audit Update
Staff gave an update on the Case Mix Audit contract. Advanta Government Services (AGS) has been awarded the Case Mix Audit contract for 2024-2029. AGS will assess the accuracy of submitted data, which affects hospital payments. Audits will focus on inpatient, outpatient, and psychiatric cases, with new areas of focus including ED times, SDOH reporting, and psychiatric events (slides 62-64).

FY 2025 DSR Implementation Timeline
Staff reviewed the timeline for submitting Test and Production files (Slide 41).
- **August 1, 2024 and onwards**
  - **FY 2025 with optional ED LOS and SOGI variable** with **FY 2025 format**
  - Submit data with July discharges
  - Submit to TEST folder
- **August 2024**
  - **FY 2025 Q1 (Jul & Jul - Aug) FY 2024 DSR Format**
  - Submit to PRODUCTION folder
- **October 1, 2024 and onwards**
  - **FY 2025 Q1 (Jul - Sep)** with **FY 2025 DSR Format with optional ED LOS and SOGI variables**
  - Submit to PRODUCTION folder
- **January 1, 2025 and onwards**
  - **FY 2025 Q2 (Dec)** with **FY 2025 DSR Format with mandatory ED LOS variables and optional SOGI variables**
  - Submit to PRODUCTION folder

Data Processing Vendor Update

Mary Pohl, representing hMetrix, reported on data processing updates. Mary reminded hospitals to submit monthly and quarterly production data (data that is grouped and used by the HSCRC) to the "Submit folder" in RDS to process the monthly data. hMetrix has instituted automated logic that can determine the type of file submitted. For test data, hospitals should submit to the "Test folder" in RDS. The Test Site is always available for testing (for instance for a new hospital coming on board or a system conversion (slides 49-50).

Upcoming Workgroups

Staff announced information for the Payments Models Workgroup, Performance Measurement Workgroup, and ED Measure and Incentive Methodology- Subgroup 2 workgroup (slide 68-70). For more information on these Workgroups, please visit the HSCRC workgroup websites.

Next Meeting

The next Quarterly Data Forum Meeting is scheduled for December 13, 2024. If you have any agenda items, please send them to Curtis, or myself by November 8, 2024.   If you have any questions or concerns about the topics discussed above, please contact Curtis Willis (Curtis.Wills@maryland.gov).