Medicaid Adult Health Quality Measures

**Summary:** Directs the Secretary of HHS to develop a set of quality measures for Medicaid eligible adults that is similar to the quality measurement program for children enacted in the Children’s Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 (CHIPRA). The Secretary and the States will report on the development of and improvements to the quality measurement program on a regular basis.

**Status Update:** On July 27, 2011, the Agency for Health Care Research and Quality (AHRQ) announced through the Federal Register a public meeting regarding this provision on August 9 and 10, 2011.

**Next steps:**
- December 13, 2010 -- The Agency for Health Care Research and Quality (AHRQ) released a background report that documents the process, deliberations, and results of AHRQ’s National Advisory Council subcommittee for identifying quality measures for Medicaid-eligible adults (in advance of the January 1, 2011 deadline).
- Not later than January 1, 2011 – Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) must identify and publish for comment a recommended set of Medicaid adult health measures. The Secretary issued a Federal Register notice with comment period identifying the initial core set of health quality measures for Medicaid-eligible adults on December 30, 2011.
- March 1, 2011 (5 pm) – Comments due on the initial core set of health quality measures for Medicaid-eligible adults.
- January 1, 2012 – Assuming the release of the recommended set of Medicaid adult health measures is on January 1, 2011, the Secretary shall establish a Medicaid Quality Measurement Program by this date.
- August 9 and 10, 2011 – Public meeting regarding this provision.
- Not later than January 1, 2012 – The Secretary shall publish an initial core set of adult health quality measures that are applicable to Medicaid eligible adults.
- Not later than January 1, 2013 -- The Secretary, in consultation with States, shall develop a standardized format for reporting information based on the initial core set of adult health quality measures and create procedures to encourage States to use such measures to voluntarily report information regarding the quality of health care for Medicaid eligible adults.
- January 1, 2014 – Assuming the Medicaid Quality Measurement Program is established on January 1, 2012, the Secretary shall publish recommended changes to the initial core set of adult health quality measures that shall reflect the results of the testing, validation, and consensus process for the development of adult health quality measures by this date.
- Not later than January 1, 2014 -- The Secretary shall include in the report to Congress required under section 1139A(a)(6) information similar to the information required under that section with respect to the measures established under this section (and every 3 years thereafter).
Not later than September 30, 2014 -- The Secretary shall collect, analyze, and make publicly available the information reported by States receiving a waiver and subsequently submitting annual quality measure reports (and annually thereafter).

Additional Information:

- December 13 posting by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality outlining the initial set of adult quality measures for Medicaid– http://www.ahrq.gov/about/nacqm/

Long summary:

Sec. 2701. Adult health quality measures.
Secretary must recommend, publish, collect, and make publicly available data on a core set of health care quality measures for Medicaid-eligible adults (similar to the quality provisions for children enacted under the Children’s Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act or CHIPRA).

Timeline. See “Next Steps” above for detailed timeline.

Funding. Appropriates $60 million annually for each fiscal year 2010 through 2014.

Legislative text:

SEC. 2701. ADULT HEALTH QUALITY MEASURES.
Title XI of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1301 et seq.), as amended by section 401 of the Children’s Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–3), is amended by inserting after section 1139A the following new section:

"SEC. 1139B. ADULT HEALTH QUALITY MEASURES.
"(a) DEVELOPMENT OF CORE SET OF HEALTH CARE QUALITY MEASURES FOR ADULTS ELIGIBLE FOR BENEFITS UNDER MEDICAID.—The Secretary shall identify and publish a recommended core set of adult health quality measures for Medicaid eligible adults in the same manner as the Secretary identifies and publishes a core set of child health quality measures under section 1139A, including with respect to identifying and publishing existing adult health quality measures that are in use under public and privately sponsored health care coverage arrangements, or that are part of reporting systems that measure both the presence and duration of health insurance coverage over time, that may be applicable to Medicaid eligible adults.

"(b) DEADLINES.—
"(1) RECOMMENDED MEASURES.—Not later than January 1, 2011, the Secretary shall identify and publish for comment a recommended core set of adult health quality measures for Medicaid eligible adults.

"(2) DISSEMINATION.—Not later than January 1, 2012, the Secretary shall publish an initial core set of adult health quality measures that are applicable to Medicaid eligible adults.

"(3) STANDARDIZED REPORTING.—Not later than January 1, 2013, the Secretary, in consultation with States, shall develop a standardized format for reporting information based on the initial core set of adult health quality measures and create procedures to encourage States to use such measures to voluntarily report information regarding the quality of health care for Medicaid eligible adults.

"(4) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than January 1, 2014, and every 3 years thereafter, the Secretary shall include in the report to Congress required under section 1139A(a)(6) information similar to the information required under that section with respect to the measures established under this section.

"(5) ESTABLISHMENT OF MEDICAID QUALITY MEASUREMENT PROGRAM.—
"(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 12 months after the release of the recommended core set of adult health quality measures under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall establish a Medicaid Quality Measurement Program in the same manner as the Secretary establishes the pediatric quality measures program under section 1139A(b). The aggregate amount awarded by the Secretary for grants and contracts for the development, testing, and validation of emerging and innovative evidence-based measures under such program shall equal the aggregate amount awarded by the Secretary for grants under section 1139A(b)(4)(A)

"(B) REVISING, STRENGTHENING, AND IMPROVING INITIAL CORE MEASURES.—Beginning not later than 24 months after the establishment of the Medicaid Quality Measurement Program, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall publish recommended changes to the initial core set of adult health quality measures that shall reflect the results of the testing, validation, and consensus process for the development of adult health quality measures.

"(c) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed as supporting the restriction of coverage, under title XIX or XXI or otherwise, to only those services that are evidence-based, or in anyway limiting available services.

"(d) ANNUAL STATE REPORTS REGARDING STATE-SPECIFIC QUALITY OF CARE MEASURES APPLIED UNDER MEDICAID.—
"(1) ANNUAL STATE REPORTS.—Each State with a State plan or waiver approved under title XIX shall annually report (separately or as part of the annual report required under section 1139A(c)), to the Secretary on the—

"(A) State-specific adult health quality measures applied by the State under the such plan, including measures described in subsection (a)(5); and

"(B) State-specific information on the quality of health care furnished to Medicaid eligible adults under such plan,
including information collected through external quality reviews of managed care organizations under section 1932
and benchmark plans under section 1937.

‘‘(2) PUBLICATION.—Not later than September 30, 2014, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall collect, analyze,
and make publicly available the information reported by States under paragraph (1).

‘‘(c) APPROPRIATION.—Out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, there is appropriated for each of fiscal years 2010
through 2014, $60,000,000 for the purpose of carrying out this section. Funds appropriated under this subsection shall remain available until
expended.’’.