

Spotlight on Core Measures



October 4, 2007

ISSUE NO. 7, Page 1

Spotlight on Core Measures is a news brief to provide the most current and up-to-date information on Core Measures for psychiatric hospitals and answers to the most frequently asked questions.

Status Update

Submission of data for the test phase continues. Several facilities continue to have a lag between data for general processing (Episode and Event files) and data for core measures (Discharge Summary and Screening).

Based on a recent call sponsored by the Joint Commission with vendors supporting the core measure set, some test sites and vendors are experiencing both collection and submission issues. While these are common attributes of "test phase" activities, they also speak to some of the difficulties with data definitions, collection and abstraction processes, and algorithm processes. Facilities participating with NRI are doing well with data submissions and NRI has successfully submitted data to the Joint Commission.

Lessons Learned – Early Implementation Phase

Forty BHPMS hospitals volunteered to participate in the test phase of core measures. They began compiling monthly data on all discharges for HBIPS (Hospital Based Inpatient Psychiatric Services) 1, 4, and 5 and on all events for HBIPS 2 and 3 for January 2007. During the August 2007 BHPMS User Group Conference, a panel of test hospitals talked about their experiences in preparing for implementation of the core measure set.

Panelists remarked that while the Joint Commission determines all of the definitions for the core measures, they felt that through their voluntary testing they can point out which data elements need better clarification, suggest inclusion and exclusion criteria, and promote further refinement of the measures.

The panelists had several specific recommendations when preparing for core measures:

1. Create a Core Measure Team. The team should involve leadership, information technology, medical records, and all the clinical disciplines. Group meetings to brainstorm issues allow input from all parties and build consensus before taking

HBIPS Core Measures Test Set

- **HBIPS-1** Percent of clients discharged with an initial screening assessment of risk of violence, substance use disorder, trauma, and patient strengths all documented within 72 hours of admission.
- **HBIPS-2** Total hours clients spent in restraint as a proportion of total inpatient hours for all clients.
- **HBIPS-3** Total hours clients spent in seclusion as a proportion of total inpatient hours for all clients.
- **HBIPS-4** Percent of clients discharged on antipsychotic medications that were discharged on two or more antipsychotic medications without an indication of a history of 3 or more failed trials of monotherapy or a recommendation to taper to monotherapy after discharge.
- **HBIPS-5** Percent of clients discharged where the discharge/referral summary includes documentation of discharge diagnosis, medications, recommendations for next level of care, and reason for hospitalization, which is sent to the next care provider prior to the first aftercare appointment.



National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors Research Institute, Inc. (NRI)
Behavioral Healthcare Performance Measurement System (BHPMS)
Address: 209 Madison Street, Suite 401, Alexandria, VA 22314
Phone: 703-682-9476 • Fax: 703-739-8956
E-Mail: CMInfo@nri-inc.org • Web Address: www.nri-inc.org

Spotlight on Core Measures



October 4, 2007

ISSUE NO. 7, Page 2

technical action. Group meetings also serve as a check-and-balance so that requirements have value to each affected discipline.

2. Map out a flow chart which identifies the primary source of the information, where it currently exists, specific definitions, and the departments through which it flows. One panelist commented that they made copies of the actual data forms. The flow chart helps all staff members to visualize the process of compiling data for core measures and identifies when new resources may be necessary to complete the task.

3. Review what data are available electronically. Create an electronic crosswalk between the hospital information system and the core measure requirements. In some instances a hospital may have to tweak the way data are captured so that the HBIPS set can be automatically populated.

4. List back-up sources of information if the data are missing. Identify alternative sources of data that can be used if the primary source is incomplete or not available.

5. Appoint a clinical oversight committee. When a hospital creates an electronic crosswalk or a download from an EMR, most of the work involved in compiling data for core measures occurs in the IT department. A clinical oversight committee will help determine which fields meet the core measures criteria from a clinical perspective.

6. Involve clinicians. Direct care workers can help determine primary sources, create the crosswalk, and help train other clinicians on tweaking documentation. Clinicians need to be trained about the new core measure requirements, why they are important, and how it will affect them.

7. Start early. Put together some practice files and learn from your own experience. Allow time to review each criterion to make sure it meets the HBIPS definition. Once the Joint Commission finalizes the core measures set, NRI will allow hospitals to submit test submissions. Use this opportunity to learn through trial and error.

Questions and Answers

Refused aftercare or lease of information. Based on a couple of questions from facilities, we are providing the following clarification. The value that needs to be verified is "Refused" so the coding is 1=Refused, 2=else. This will allow us to identify clients that refuse aftercare or to release information and are thus excluded from HBIPS-5.

Getting Ready for 2009 – Facilities not part of the test phase

As noted by the panelists from the test sites, one of the key activities is determining which data elements are currently part of the hospital's data collection protocols and whether the data elements meet the requirements as defined by the Joint Commission (and as stated in the NRI manual). NRI developed a Core Measure Set Data Abstraction Form to guide facilities on the requirements. The Data Abstraction form is available on-line after an authorized user logs in to the BHPMS secure site. The Implementation



National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors Research Institute, Inc. (NRI)
Behavioral Healthcare Performance Measurement System (BHPMS)
Address: 209 Madison Street, Suite 401, Alexandria, VA 22314
Phone: 703-682-9476 • Fax: 703-739-8956
E-Mail: CMInfo@nri-inc.org • Web Address: www.nri-inc.org

Spotlight on Core Measures



October 4, 2007

ISSUE NO. 7, Page 3

Guide version 4 includes the current file layouts and all data definitions. The two new files for core measures are: Initial Screening and Discharge Summary. These two files layout should be used as a guide to current data requirements and should be used in conjunction with the data definitions section of the guide. At this point, facilities should not “map” to these files – these files will be replaced when final specifications are released by the Joint Commission. We have also heard that two Joint Commission data elements will be having coding changes in 2008.

Getting Ready for NRI Data Integrity Review – Current Test Sites

“Primary source” is the place that data are initially recorded by the facility for inclusion in the client’s medical record. For most facilities this will be a paper form that is completed by clinical staff. Some elements from the form may be entered into the information systems.

“Data flow” is a description of how the information passes through the facility, identifying the different types of staff that are involved in any phase of the process. As follow-up to these forms, NRI will dialogue with facilities about the data extraction processes. This is the final step before the on-site or desk review.

Timeline for data submissions

During the test phase, NRI has allowed test sites extra time to compile data files, transmit data files, and re-submit files. After the test year, the Joint Commission will expect that data files are received by NRI no later than 30 days after the end of the month. Monthly data submission to the Joint Commission will continue during 2008 and will be a requirement when the site is finalized. It is important for us to know the factors contributing to the delays so that they can be included in our evaluation of the test phase and assist us in preparing for full implementation.

The Joint Commission Activities Update

The Joint Commission begins the on-site data reliability visits. Twelve facilities were selected for October and November 2007, and 8 facilities will be selected for January and February 2008. A sample of anonymous patient-level data (APLD) submitted to the Joint Commission will be selected as test cases. The vendor will provide the facility with the anonymous ID and the ID number submitted by the facility so that the appropriate clients’ medical records can be provided for the Joint Commission visit. The purpose of these studies is to evaluate the data elements, data collection processes, and measure definitions, and to discuss with the facilities their experiences during this test phase.

The Technical Advisory Panel will likely meet in March 2008 to review the findings of the data quality and data reliability studies. The panel would make recommendations to the Joint Commission on refinements or changes in the core measures.

The Joint Commission anticipates submitting the measure set in April 2008 to National Quality Forum (NQF) for consideration and endorsement. The specifications of the measures may be different from those used during the test phase.

The Joint Commission anticipates releasing final specifications for the HBIPS core



National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors Research Institute, Inc. (NRI)
Behavioral Healthcare Performance Measurement System (BHPMS)
Address: 209 Madison Street, Suite 401, Alexandria, VA 22314
Phone: 703-682-9476 • Fax: 703-739-8956
E-Mail: CMInfo@nri-inc.org • Web Address: www.nri-inc.org

Spotlight on Core Measures



October 4, 2007

ISSUE NO. 7, Page 4

measure set June 1, 2008. The set will then be made available to the vendors for imbedding into their systems. Specifications from the vendors should be released early summer 2008 to enable facilities to prepare processes to support submission of data in January 2009.

NRI Activities - Updates

NRI begins data integrity reviews in October 2007. All facilities participating in the test phase are asked to complete standard NRI data integrity review pre-visit forms. Once forms have been received by NRI, follow-up calls with the facilities will be conducted. Data integrity reviews will be conducted as either on-site visits or desk reviews. NRI expects that this process will provide insight into some of the difficulties with definitions or guidelines provide by NRI and the Joint Commission, problem areas for data collection, recommended excluded populations, possible forms that enhance data collection and integrity that can be shared wit other facilities, and recommendations for NRI's file structure after the set is finalized.

NRI will begin preparing "readiness assessment" tools for facilities. Input from the test sites will strongly influence these tools.

NRI will create a core measures workgroup using our "experts" from the test sites to recommend file structures and data elements for the final core measure set. We anticipate that this group would meet after the final specifications are released by the Joint Commission in June. NRI would then produce final file layouts and data definitions for general use during the summer.

Timeline Update – No Revisions to Previous Postings

Core Measure Participants Conference Call

NRI hosts a call for participating facilities the third Wednesday of each month, at 2 pm (Eastern). We use this call to provide updates on processing, measure calculations, and to address issues facilities are experiencing with the core data set requirements.

The next call is Wednesday October 17, 2007 at 2pm (Eastern).
To join the call, please call: 1-888-296-6500, guest code 804535#

NRI will continue to send bulletins to state hospitals and post updates on its website. Earlier bulletins related to the core measure set for hospital based inpatient psychiatric services are available on the NRI website at www.nri-inc.org/projects/bhpms. If you have any questions concerning the core measure set, please contact me though email at Lucille.Schacht@nri-inc.org.



National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors Research Institute, Inc. (NRI)
Behavioral Healthcare Performance Measurement System (BHPMS)
Address: 209 Madison Street, Suite 401, Alexandria, VA 22314
Phone: 703-682-9476 • Fax: 703-739-8956
E-Mail: CMInfo@nri-inc.org • Web Address: www.nri-inc.org