MetaStar Begins Work on New Quality Improvement Organization Priorities Focused on System-wide Change

Jay A. Gold, MD, JD, MPH

In August 2011, MetaStar began working on the new Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) Program priorities with a focus on 3 aims: better patient care, better population health, and lower health care costs. The QIO Program is the largest federal program dedicated to improving health quality at the community level, and it has QIOs in every state and territory responding to local needs.

The new program priorities differ from those in the past in that they focus on effecting system-wide change by removing organizational, cultural, and geographic boundaries and by including health care professionals at all levels of clinical performance who make a commitment to improvement. MetaStar will convene large-scale learning and action networks throughout Wisconsin to accelerate the pace of change and to spread best practices rapidly. The improvement initiatives also will include collaborative projects, online interaction, and peer-to-peer education.

**Improvement Aims**

- From August 2011 through July 2014, physicians, their health care professionals and quality stakeholders in Wisconsin can join MetaStar for the following.

  - **To Improve Individual Patient Care**—Patient safety initiatives in hospitals will reduce catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTIs), Clostridium difficile infections, and surgical site infections by implementing a program called the Comprehensive Unit-Based Safety Program (CUSP). All Medicare-participating hospitals will receive technical assistance for reporting inpatient and outpatient quality data to CMS.

  - In nursing homes, work initially targets pressure ulcers and physical restraints. It then will evolve to address other health care-acquired conditions, such as falls and CAUTIs.

  - To decrease adverse drug events, MetaStar is bringing together teams of community pharmacists, physicians, facilities, administrators, and patients into the federal Health Resources and Services Administration’s Patient Safety and Clinical Pharmacy Services Collaborative (PSPC).

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