Oral Presentation
Understanding the Current Role of Immunization Measures in Quality-Based Policies
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Background:
Optimizing uptake of recommended immunizations requires policy interventions on multiple levels, including incentives, to increase immunization uptake. Policies focused on driving quality performance offer an opportunity to leverage the current shift toward value-based care in the United States while avoiding the controversy typically associated with compulsory vaccine “mandates.” Further, quality-based approaches to improving outcomes for vaccine-preventable diseases have emerged as strategic objectives at the national level; several U.S. initiatives call for the use of quality to tackle lagging immunization rates, particularly among the adult population. As a result, the movement to drive immunization measurement activities is gaining momentum.

Setting:
United States

Population:
Immunization-eligible adults

Project Description:
We assessed the current landscape surrounding vaccine quality measurement and took a cross-sectional view of how vaccine quality measures are currently being used and deployed across various state and federal policies and programs. In addition to the assessment, we examined case studies of how vaccination quality measures or quality-specific requirements have been integrated into policies and regulations at both the state and federal levels, and identified examples of key opportunities where gaps in measures and measure use persist.

Results/Lessons Learned:
Select immunization quality measures are currently widely-used in quality reporting and payment programs at both the state and federal levels. Some states have already taken various approaches to state-based quality policies and incentive programs specifically focused on increasing immunization rates. These efforts have focused largely on childhood vaccinations or seasonal influenza, but may still offer insights that can be applied to the adult population. Despite the growing attention to advancing immunization quality measures and optimizing measure use, several gaps remain, particularly in the adult space.
New Measures for Adult Immunization on the Horizon: A Prenatal and An Adult Composite Measures
Angela Shen, Sepheen Byron, Tom Weiser

Summary of Topic:
This session provides an overview of current testing and development of two adult immunization measures – a prenatal and an adult composite measure – and the use of the electronic data systems in measure testing and development for HEDIS. Insights from other assessment tools and experiences will also be discussed.

Description of Session:
The role of quality measures has become an important factor in how providers are being compensated and/or reimbursed, how consumers choose their health plans and/or providers, and how employers offer insurance options to their employees.

While measures in clinical setting often aim to reflect the performance of providers, health plans, or healthcare facilities, such measures in public health context may provide clues to the health of a population. For instance, the immunization coverage rates for adults.

According to a recent gap analysis conducted by the National Quality Forum on the topic of Addressing Performance Measure Gaps for Adult Immunizations, most of the existing immunization measures are process-oriented and focused on seasonal influenza and pneumococcal vaccines. However, as immunization is highly integrated as part of preventive services and as quality measures become more complex at the population level, composite measures for adult immunizations have been recommended as a tool to increase immunization uptake. Such composite measure enables one to see a broader performance spectrum—such as the ACIP-recommended adult immunization schedule—while enhances the overall quality of immunization services based on the administration of and protection against multiple antigens rather than one measure per vaccine type.

This session will provide a contextual understanding of immunization-related quality measures, describe current efforts on the development of measures including composite measures for various adult populations (e.g. maternal immunizations, routine immunizations for adults across the age-span, diabetes measure), the types of evidence used in supporting these measures including the use of electronic data sources, and how these measures can be applied to facilitate and promote adult immunization activities.