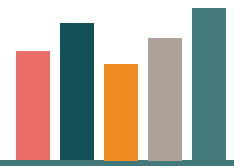


MEASUREMENT MINUTE

News from MN Community Measurement



COLLABORATE | EMPOWER | IMPROVE

December 2021

Letter from MNCM President and CEO Julie Sonier

Recently, a new *report* on health disparities from the Commonwealth Fund caught my eye. The report is a state-by-state scorecard on health system performance by race and ethnicity, and its results are sobering. Minnesota has some of the largest disparities in its health system performance for different population groups within the state, with especially large disparities in mortality amenable to health care and infant mortality.

Many of us are used to seeing state-by-state comparisons that show Minnesota performing well compared to other states — including this 2020 Commonwealth Fund *scorecard* on state health system performance which ranked Minnesota third among all states. However, we have long known that there are large disparities in health care access, utilization, and outcomes by race and ethnicity in Minnesota — so in some ways the new report is not surprising. Using our own Minnesota data on health care quality, MNCM's annual *reports on health disparities by race, ethnicity, language, and country of origin* also illustrate these stark disparities in outcomes.

We all have a role to play in contributing to solutions, and I am encouraged by the energy and commitment to improving health equity in Minnesota that I see and hear in Minnesota from health plans, health care providers, and others. In a recent MNCM *blog post*, I described MNCM's vision for how our work will support and contribute to making progress. MNCM is also proud to have been awarded a grant from the *Preparedness and Treatment Equity Coalition* to support work on better understanding drivers of disparities in outcomes for diabetes and vascular care — see below for more information on this new project.

Best,



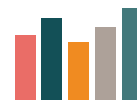
Opportunity for Public Comment: New Measures for Obesity Management

MN Community Measurement and the Endocrine Society (ES) are pleased to announce the completion of measure specifications for a suite of new measures aimed at improving the health outcomes and reducing modifiable risks for patients with obesity. The Specifications Engineering Group (SEG) and Technical Expert Panel (TEP) meetings concluded in October 2021 with the recommendation to proceed with obtaining public comment on four measures currently under consideration prior to the pilot testing phase. Please click on the following measure names for detailed descriptions and specifications:

- *Obesity Prediabetes and Diabetes A1c Control*
- *Obesity Weight Loss with Medication*
- *Obesity Diagnosis*
- *Obesity Blood Pressure Control*

Comments may be submitted at publiccomment@mncm.org no later than Friday, December 17, 2021

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MNCM Receives Grant Focused on Disparities

In September, MNMCM, in collaboration with the Minnesota Department of Human Services and the University of Minnesota, was awarded a grant from the Preparedness and Treatment Equity Coalition (PTEC) via AcademyHealth to advance a project focused on leveraging data to understand and address disparities in vascular and diabetes care. The study aims to identify drivers of variation in outcomes for Black, Hispanic/Latinx, and Native American communities, in order to inform data-driven interventions to help target the root causes of disparities. More information about the grant program and projects funded is available on the [AcademyHealth Blog](#). The findings from the project will be available to the community this spring. Please watch for more information on opportunities to learn about the results in future issues of *Measurement Minute*.

Medical Groups Make Progress on Transition to PIPE

In August, MNMCM surveyed 163 medical groups asking them to select an 8-week cohort over the next two years for implementing the updated data collection and measure calculation technology known as Process Intelligence Performance Engine (PIPE). PIPE replaces the older data collection system known as Direct Data Submission (DDS) to reduce provider reporting burden and increase the availability of timely and actionable data for clinics to use in their improvement efforts.

MNMCM's strategic goal is to transition half of all reporting clinics to PIPE by the end of 2022 and complete the transition for the remaining clinics by the end of 2023. DDS will be retired after the 2023 reporting cycle. MNMCM is currently working with a cohort of medical groups that began earlier this year to complete transition in time for 2022 reporting of quality measures for 2021 dates of service. We will also be reaching out to other medical groups to prepare for their implementation in 2022.

Please visit the [MNMCM PIPE Onboarding Page](#) to download the PIPE readiness assessment and implementation plan as well as the version 2.0 of the PIPE standard. Please contact support@mncm.org with any questions.

MNCARES Update

MNMCM has been working in collaboration with HealthPartners Institute and the Minnesota Department of Health on the Minnesota Care Coordination Effectiveness Study (MNCARES) and has completed collection of the Historical Cohort data from participating Minnesota Health Care Home clinics. This cohort has approximately 11,000 care coordination patients who started receiving care coordination services prior to the pandemic in 2018 or early 2019, from 38 care systems.

HealthPartners Institute invited 3,000 patients randomly selected from the Historical Cohort to complete a survey about their health and healthcare experiences before and during the pandemic. MNMCM is also currently working with four payor partners to collect utilization data about Historical Cohort patients who had insurance coverage through these payors.

Data collection for the Primary Cohort will begin in March 2022 and will include patients who started receiving care coordination services during 2021. Participating clinics can find more information about submitting data on the [MNCARES Information Page for Clinics](#).

Save the Date: 2022 MNMCM Annual Conference

Please save the date for the 2022 MNMCM Annual Conference, which will be held April 27, 2022. The event will be offered in person at the Crowne Plaza Minneapolis West. MNMCM is excited to present a full day of educational programming focused on strategies to advance health care quality, equity, and affordability — with opportunities to network and reconnect with others working to make progress on common goals. Please mark your calendars and look for more information in the next issue of *Measurement Minute*.



MNCM Welcomes New Board Member: Cynthia MacDonald

Cynthia MacDonald serves as assistant commissioner of the Health Care Administration at the Minnesota Department of Human Services and the State Medicaid Director. In these roles, MacDonald oversees Minnesota's Medicaid and MinnesotaCare programs, which collectively provide health coverage to 1.2 million Minnesotans. MacDonald's career has spanned over 30 years running Medicare and Medicaid programs. She has held executive leadership positions at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota, MN Community Measurement, Metropolitan Health Plan, Health Care Service Corporation, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Blue Cross Blue Shield Northern Plains Alliance, and Anthem.



MNCM Welcomes New Staff: Lexie Adams, Elijah Gallenberg, Maegi Yang, and Joe Flannigan

MNCM is pleased to welcome three new Project Coordinators to the MNMCM staff. Lexie Adams and Elijah Gallenberg joined the team in September, and Maegi Yang joined in October. They will support data collection and validation for clinical quality measurement as well as statewide onboarding of medical groups into MNMCM's PIPE system.

We are also pleased to welcome Joe Flannigan to the MNMCM staff. Joe joined the team last month as Business Development Manager, which is a new position for MNMCM that is focused on helping us to maintain and expand the revenue model that allows us to advance our mission.

In Case You Missed It

Recent MNMCM Blog Articles

Since the last issue of Measurement Minute, two new articles have been posted on the MNMCM blog:

President's Blog | [A Vision for Data to Drive Improvement in Health Equity](#)

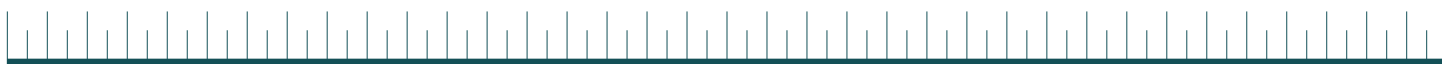
President's Blog | [Improving Minnesota Health Care Quality, Affordability, and Equity: Strategic Priorities for 2021 to 2025](#)

Recent Reports Released by MNMCM

Health Care Cost & Utilization in 2020. This report includes analysis of 2020 health care costs for Minnesotans with private health insurance. The report includes information on resource use, price index, and total cost of care (TCOC). It also provides a deeper look at health care utilization and prices for individual services.

Spotlight Reports: 2020 Measurement Year This Spotlight Report presents initial data on health care quality measures in Minnesota for 2020. The measures included in this report are calculated using clinical data collected by MNMCM directly from medical groups and clinics from January to April 2021.

Spotlight Report: Depression Project MNMCM published a spotlight report summarizing the findings of a study focused on advancing mental health outcomes in Minnesota. The spotlight report includes key insights for engaging stakeholders to accelerate progress and improve outcomes. The project was funded by a Eugene B. Washington Community Engagement Award from the Patient-Centered Outcome Research Institute (PCORI).



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A trusted source of health care data and public reporting on quality, cost, and patient experience since 2003, MNMCM works with medical groups, health plans, employers, consumers, and state agencies to spur quality improvement, reduce health care costs, and maximize value. Learn more at www.mncm.org and our public reporting site www.mnhealthscores.org.