



MN Community Measurement

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

LETTER FROM MNCM PRESIDENT

Dear friends,

As I reflect on the accomplishments of 2019, I am struck not only by all that MN Community Measurement (MNCM) accomplished during the year but the energy and enthusiasm bringing us into 2020. MNCM is committed to being a place where stakeholders convene to accomplish more together than any of us can alone. In the past, this has meant agreeing on priorities for measurement of health care quality and cost and creating a trusted set of information that everyone in our community can rely on. Recently, we have taken an active role in making measurement easier and providing more timely feedback on quality measures, as well as standardizing the exchange of data between health care providers and health plans that is used to support value-based payment arrangements. In 2020, we look forward to continued progress in these areas, and we also look forward to engaging actively with partners in the community who are working to improve mental health, address the opioid crisis, reduce low-value care, and other efforts.

MNCM extends its heartfelt thanks to all of the stakeholders who engage in our work by contributing their time and talent, the data needed for community-wide measurement efforts, and financial support. You are essential to MNCM's ongoing success.

MNCM is proud to be both a regional and national leader in using data and measurement to drive improvement in health care quality and cost. We welcome all those who wish to join us in support of this work.

Sincerely,



Julie Sonier
President



CONTENTS

We are pleased to share MNCM's 2019 annual report with the community. MNCM is a multi-stakeholder nonprofit organization that empowers health care decision makers with meaningful data to drive improvement. This report describes MNCM's activities and accomplishments in 2019 to achieve this goal. It is organized into several sections as follows:

- » Continued Excellence in Measurement and Transparency
- » Innovation to Drive System Improvement
- » Achieving Broader Impact and Engagement
- » Contributing to Improvements in Cost and Affordability of Care
- » Acknowledgements
 - Founding Members
 - Supporting Members
 - Service on MNCM Board of Directors
 - Service on MNCM Committees, Workgroups, and Technical Advisory Groups

CONTINUED EXCELLENCE IN MEASUREMENT AND TRANSPARENCY

» MNMCM continues to offer one of the most robust health care quality and cost measurement and transparency efforts in the nation. **MNHealthScores** is a source of unbiased, trustworthy information on how medical groups and clinics perform on both clinical quality and cost measures.



» MNMCM produced four community reports highlighting statewide performance on health care cost and utilization; disparities by insurance type; disparities by race, ethnicity, language, and country of origin; and health care quality. These reports are available to the public free of charge and provide comparative data and analysis that shed light on opportunities for improving performance and care delivery.



» MNMCM's 2019 Annual Seminar "Innovating Together" was a great success. More than 250 attendees benefited from multiple sessions with topics including automation and big data in quality measurement; cost transparency; and using data to drive improvement in primary care, specialty care, opioids, mental health, and more. Importantly, attendees had the opportunity to network and share ideas to advance improvement.



**INNOVATING
TOGETHER**

- » MNMCM partnered with the community to improve upon existing orthopedic specialty measures for spine fusion, spine discectomy/laminectomy, and total knee replacement. The redesigned measures were approved by the Measurement and Reporting Committee (MARC) in March and were subsequently accepted into the CMS Quality Payment Program for 2020.
- » MNMCM sought and received re-endorsement of the Optimal Diabetes Care measure by the National Quality Forum (NQF) Primary Care and Chronic Illness Committee.
- » MNMCM was engaged by the American Academy of Neurology to pilot test three measures: Avoidance of Dopamine-Blocking Medications for patients with Parkinson’s Disease; Avoidance of Anticholinergic Medications for Patients with Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI); and Epilepsy Counseling for Women of Child-Bearing Potential with Epilepsy (revised).
- » MNMCM engaged with the community to complete an environmental scan to identify and prioritize new measurement needs. MARC and the Health Equity Advisory Council (HEAC) identified 15 concepts that were presented for community input through an online survey. Results from the scan were presented to the broader community at the MNMCM Annual Seminar in September and will be used by the MNMCM board in determining strategic priorities for 2020 and beyond.

INNOVATION TO DRIVE SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT

- » MNMCM introduced its new Process Intelligence Performance Engine (PIPE) program and technology and partnered with several medical groups to test the new data standard and technology. The new approach reduces the burden of data submission and creates new opportunities to enhance feedback reports with more timely and actionable information. Onboarding to the new system is expected to continue through 2020.
- » MNMCM formally launched the Community Health Information Reporting Partnership (CHIRP) to support health care payers and medical groups in standardizing flows of data necessary to support population health management and quality improvement. A technical advisory group (TAG) was convened to draft data standards for (1) claims-based reports delivered to medical groups from payers; and (2) clinical data delivered to payers from medical groups. The new standards will be vetted with the community and available for implementation in 2020.

ACHIEVING BROADER IMPACT AND ENGAGEMENT

- » MNMCM exists to empower decision makers with meaningful data to drive improvement. To that end, in 2019, we created new tools for both medical groups and health plans to make it easier to use data effectively. For our medical group supporting members, we created an interactive Annual Benchmarking Report that summarizes performance information with comparisons to statewide averages and other like entities. For health plans, we created a tool to assist them in demonstrating how MNMCM data are aligned with NCQA requirements for standard supplemental data for HEDIS Measurement.
- » MNMCM continued to support and maintain eleven measures for the CMS Quality Payment Program (QPP). We also actively engaged with efforts at the national level aimed at providing input on the selection of performance measures for public reporting and performance-based payment programs, including the Core Quality Measures Collaborative (CQMC) and the National Quality Forum's Measure Applications Partnership (MAP) Rural Health Workgroup.
- » MNMCM participated in a national multi-stakeholder roundtable convened by the Pharmacy Quality Alliance, the National Health Council, and the National Quality Forum to inform the development of *The Patient Engagement in Quality Measurement Rubric: A Guide to Patient Partnership in the Quality Measure Lifecycle*. The final rubric was released in September.
- » MNMCM expanded its partnerships with research organizations to seek funding and leverage MNMCM data, infrastructure, and expertise for broader community impact on health care quality and affordability. MNMCM also extended offerings in 2019 to support the community with evaluation services, including evaluation design, data collection, analysis, and reporting for projects focused on testing new methods and interventions to improve health care quality and affordability. Projects MNMCM contributed to in 2019 include:
 - » ***Understanding Infrastructure Transformation Effects on Diabetes (UNITED)***
PARTNER(S): University of Minnesota
STATUS: Active project
 - » ***Evaluation of Pharmacy-Based Interventions in Advancing Optimal Diabetes Care***
PARTNER(S): Pfizer, Thrifty White Pharmacy
STATUS: Active project
 - » ***Comparing Two Approaches to Care Coordination for High-Cost/High-Need Patients in Primary Care***
PARTNER(S): HealthPartners Institute
STATUS: Funding secured by HPI (PCORI Research Award); Implementation in 2020
 - » ***Mental Health Guiding Coalition***
PARTNER(S): Minnesota Health Action Group
STATUS: Funding secured by MHAG (PCORI Engagement Award); Implementation in 2020

- » MNCM supported three Minnesota state agencies in their work to advance health care quality and affordability, including:
 - » Collecting and delivering data for the Statewide Quality Reporting and Measurement System administered by the Minnesota Department of Health and delivering benchmarking reports to support the Health Care Homes program.
 - » Producing the annual report on statewide disparities by insurance type in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Human Services and delivering analysis needed for administration of the Integrated Health Partnership Program.
 - » Providing Minnesota Management and Budget with data specific to its health care provider network and support efforts to promote access to high-value health care through the State Employee Group Insurance Program.

CONTRIBUTING TO IMPROVEMENTS IN COST AND AFFORDABILITY OF CARE

- » MNCM worked with the community to improve on the attribution methodology for Total Cost of Care and address concerns about appropriate attribution of some providers to primary care. MNCM coordinated with health plans and affected medical group(s) to analyze the impact of the current attribution model and proposed an administrative solution for the parties to use.
- » MNCM implemented a new data format for cost measures from health plans that allowed for more in-depth reporting and for improved statistical testing. MNCM also created new methods for delivering cost and utilization reports to medical groups that improved both efficiency and ease of use.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

FOUNDING MEMBERS

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of
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HealthPartners

Itasca Medical Care
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Minnesota Hospital Association
Minnesota Medical Association

PreferredOne
PrimeWest Health
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**Continuing in 2020*

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*Continuing in 2020

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