

TECHNICAL EXPERT CLINICAL USER PATIENT PANEL AND MEASURE SPECIFICATION PANEL SELECTED FOR PALLIATIVE CARE MEASURES PROJECT

February 15, 2019

Under the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA), the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) was directed to develop performance measures for clinicians. To meet these requirements, CMS contracted with the [American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine](#) (AAHPM) to develop two patient reported outcome performance measures (PRO-PMs) in the areas of pain/symptom management and communication for patients with serious illness, including those receiving palliative care. The [project](#) was awarded funding in September 2018 and will run for three years.

To support the [Palliative Care Measures Project](#), AAHPM is pleased to announce a new Technical Expert Clinical User Patient Panel (TECUPP) and Measure Specification Panel (MSP), which will be chaired by Sydney Dy, MD, MS, FAAHPM, and Mary Ersek, PhD, RN, FPCN. The TECUPP and MSP will contribute direction and thoughtful input on the development of the measures for patients with serious illness using their background as real-world clinical ‘end-users,’ patients, and experts in measure development and testing methodologies.

The TECUPP and MSP members represent a broad array of stakeholders including measure development experts, palliative care clinicians from the interdisciplinary team, specialty society representatives, patient advocates, former patients, family caregivers, healthcare industry representatives, diversity experts, and others. Members of the TECUPP have been selected from nominations received from the public and include representatives from national organizations such as AAHPM, AMDA – The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine, American Association of Family Physicians (AAFP), American College of Physicians (ACP), American Geriatrics Society (AGS), American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), Center to Advance Palliative Care (CAPC), HealthCare Chaplaincy Network (HCCN), Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association (HPNA), National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO), National Patient Advocate Foundation (NPAF), Physician Assistants in Hospice and Palliative Medicine (PAHPM), Social Work Hospice and Palliative Network (SWHPN), Society of Pain and Palliative Care Pharmacists (SPPCP), and the Supportive Care Coalition (SCC).

This robust and unique combination of stakeholders will help ensure that the new measures will be patient-centered and meaningful to seriously ill patients and their caregivers. A roster of the TECUPP and MSP members is available [online](#).

AAHPM is working with the [National Coalition for Hospice and Palliative Care](#) to ensure transparent and periodic feedback from the public and from key stakeholders at different stages during the project. AAHPM has also contracted with [RAND Health Care](#) to develop and test patient reported outcome performance measures (PRO-PMs) that, at the conclusion of the project, will be ready for National Quality Forum (NQF) endorsement and implementation into CMS’s Quality Payment Program, including the Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) and Alternative Payment Models (APMs). The ultimate goal of the new measures is to improve the quality of care received by patients and families.

More information about the MACRA Palliative Care Measures Project is available at www.nationalcoalitionhpc.org/MACRA.