Dateline: April 26, 2013

PARF and PCPA Approve Merger to Form RCPA on July 1

PARF and the Pennsylvania Community Providers Association (PCPA) will become Rehabilitation and Community Providers Association (RCPA) on July 1, 2013. On April 25 at separate meetings of PARF and PCPA the members of each association agreed unanimously to merge to form the new Rehabilitation and Community Providers Association (RCPA), effective July 1. The merger will make RCPA among the largest state health and human services trade groups in the nation. Sharing a long history of cooperation and partnerships, PARF and PCPA began exploring the merger in 2009. Since 1969, PARF has been actively working to improve the availability, accessibility and quality of rehabilitation services for individuals with disabilities. PARF members offer services and programs that include medical, psychological, social, residential, educational, and vocational rehabilitation. PARF has more than 90 members in Pennsylvania. Founded in 1972, PCPA represents more than 225 community-based agencies that provide mental health, intellectual and developmental disability, and substance use disorder services for children and adults. Members operate in every county and serve more than 1 million Pennsylvanians per year. As a single entity, RCPA will continue the associations’ joint missions to enhance advocacy, education, project support, public information and policy development for the benefit of individuals with mental health and intellectual disabilities, addictive diseases and rehabilitation needs, and expand networking and training for association members. The two associations currently are in the process of merging operations for the July 1 kickoff. Regular updates will be provided as the merger progresses. FMI: Contact PARF at parfmail@parf.org. For more information about the groups, visit PARF at www.parf.org and PCPA at www.paproviders.org.

PA Independent Fiscal Office Sees Medicaid Expansion as Favorable to PA

Pennsylvania would benefit economically from Medicaid expansion according to a report issued on April 23 by the PA Independent Fiscal Office (IFO). The IFO report concludes that expansion could be a major boon for the state economy and the state budget. The study by the IFO assesses the impact of expansion between 2014 and 2021 and bases its findings on an expected average $4 billion per year increase in federal funding associated with expansion. The IFO says that amount of new federal funding would produce an average of $3.1 billion in annual gross state product increases and a $2.1 billion per year boost to taxable earnings and income in Pennsylvania through 2021. The IFO report says that the impact were determined without consideration of costs associated with implementation of the federal Affordable Care Act or the new health insurance exchanges. Those costs would be incurred apart from any decision on Medicaid expansion. According to the IFO report tax revenues derived from personal and corporate income taxes would increase by $65 million per year, sales taxes by $40 million annually and gross receipts taxes by $115 million each year. The report says that state expenditures would fall by approximately $220 million annually, on average, producing a net positive yearly budgetary effect of $430 million. The report supports the findings of previously released studies by RAND and the Pennsylvania Economy League. The IFO does express some caution regarding its budgetary analysis, noting that it currently, it is unclear whether the federal government will allow taxes to be levied on new federal spending. If disallowed, that will have significant budgetary impact. FMI: See http://www.ifo.state.pa.us/index.cfm#&panel11-3
HR 201 Increases Public Awareness of Challenges for Veterans with PTSD

On April 23 the PA House of Representatives has passed a resolution (HR 201) offered by PA Representative Tom Murt (R-Montgomery/Philadelphia) which seeks to bring attention to veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). HR 201 designates May 2013 as Military Service-Related Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Month in Pennsylvania. The PA Department of Veteran Affairs says that as many as one in five veterans from the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq will suffer from PTSD. FMI: Questions or comments concerning HR 201 should be sent to Bonnie Book at bbook@pahousegop.com or phone 717-787-6886.

PA House Health Committee Approves HB 1190 on Hospital Licensing and Deemed Status

On April 22 the PA House Health Committee unanimously approved legislation to eliminate redundancies in hospital licensing. House Bill 1190 would allow the use of deemed status to exempt hospitals from routine licensure renewal surveys conducted by the Department of Health (DOH). If enacted, DOH would recognize reports of national accreditation organizations as acceptable for meeting licensure requirements as long as the organization's standards are equal to or more stringent than those of DOH. Hospitals that do not satisfy accreditation criteria would remain subject to the current licensing requirements of DOH. HB 1190 also contains a provision that would allow hospitals to exceed identified bed limits defined within their licenses during times of natural disaster, catastrophes, acts of bioterrorism, epidemics and other emergencies. House Bill 1190 will be before the full House of Representatives for consideration and debate. FMI: See www.pahousegop.com.

PA House DPC Holds Public Hearing on Homelessness

On April 25 members of the PA House of Representatives Democratic Policy Committee (House DPC) heard from faith leaders, housing experts and advocates for the homeless at a public hearing in Harrisburg testifying to the challenges for Pennsylvania’s growing homeless population. State Representative Vanessa Lowery Brown (D-Philadelphia) requested the hearing and served as its chairwoman. Those testifying at the hearing focused on the history, causes, magnitude and solutions for preventing and ending homelessness in Pennsylvania. FMI: For more information about the House DPC and for hearing materials, see www.pahouse.com/PolicyCommittee.

HR 226 Calls for Study of PA Mental Health System

On April 23 the Judiciary Committee of the PA House of Representatives approved House Resolution 226 (HR 226) directing the Joint State Government Commission to conduct a study of all aspects of Pennsylvania's mental health system and associated laws. HR 226 now moves to the full House of Representatives for adoption. FMI: See www.legis.state.pa.us to review HR 226. For a copy of the legislative memorandum on HR 226 see http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/Legis/CSM/ShowMemoPublic.cfm?chamber=H&SPick=20130&csp onId=12174.
Governor Corbett Signs HB 2 on Special Education Funding

On April 25 PA Governor Tom Corbett signed into law House Bill 2 (P.N. 537) amending the Public School Code and establishing a Special Education Funding Commission and providing for special education funding for student achievement and instruction of eligible students, special education funding for eligible students with disabilities and special education accountability. Senator Pat Browne (R-Lehigh, Monroe, and Northampton) and Representative Bernie O'Neill (R-Bucks), sponsors of the legislation, were present at the signing. For a copy of HB2 see the General Assembly's website at www.legis.state.pa.us. For more information see www.governor.pa.gov.

PA Commonwealth Court Denies Injunctive Relief from Plan to Close State Health Centers

On April 25 the PA Commonwealth Court Judge Keith denied the request by SEIU Healthcare Pennsylvania for an injunction to stop the Corbett administration from taking steps to close 26 state public health centers and consolidating them with other existing facilities. SEIU Healthcare Pennsylvania represents health center employees. The facilities have four main areas of focus: communicable diseases, disease investigations, tuberculosis screening and case management, and immunizations. The Court is still to decide on the legality of Corbett administration plans to close the centers. SEIU Healthcare Pennsylvania claims Act 87 of 1996 expressly prohibits the closure of the state’s health centers, requiring the commonwealth to “operate those public State health centers and provide at a minimum those public health services in effect as of July 1, 1995.” SEIU says that reducing the number of centers could result in an increased risk to public health. The Corbett administration says that its plan is legal and would help to improve the system.

ODP Offers Guidance on Migration of the Excluded Parties List to System for Award Management

On April 22 the PA DPW Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) issued ODP Announcement 031-13 on the Migration of the Excluded Parties List System to the System for Award Management. ODP Announcement 031-13 notes that all services provided through the Consolidated, Person/Family Directed Services and Adult Autism Waivers are paid for with Medicaid payments. As such, all waiver providers, OHCDS, vendors, VF/E A FMS organizations and AWC FMS organizations must determine if employees and contractors have been excluded from receiving payments through the Waivers. ODP says that it recently became aware that the Excluded Parties List System (EPLS) database has been migrated into the System for Award Management (SAM) effective November 21, 2012. All exclusion records from EPLS, active or expired, were moved to https://www.sam.gov. ODP says that providers are now responsible for checking this website in order to comply with federal and state laws. ODP adds that providers can conduct a search of SAM using the “Search Records” tab at the top of the page. See the Helpful Hints for additional information. Questions about the content of this announcement should be directed to the appropriate Regional Program Manager, or, in the case of Adult Autism Waiver providers, email to ra-odpa autismwaiver@pa.gov.
DPW Continues to Consider Medicaid Expansion

On April 25 at the monthly meeting of the PA Department of Public Welfare (DPW) Medical Assistance Advisory Committee (MAAC) Acting Secretary of Public Welfare Beverly Mackereth reported that conversations about the Medicaid expansion are continuing. Acting Secretary Mackereth said that the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has confirmed that Pennsylvania is eligible for the 100% federal match and that under the law children currently in CHIP who are below 138% of the federal poverty level must transfer to the Medical Assistance (MA) program. Acting Secretary Mackereth stated that the requirement regarding CHIP enrollment will result in an additional cost of approximately $20 million, which will be offset by some savings, the amount of which is unknown at this time. She also said that prior to arriving at a decision about implementing the expansion are the following issues the Commonwealth must have resolved several questions, namely: (a) Whether the way Pennsylvania funds MA (hospital assessment and Gross receipts tax) is acceptable; (2) Whether and in what ways Pennsylvania can reform/simplify its MA program [she said CMS agrees that the PA MA program is too expansive and has too many waivers]; (3) Whether Pennsylvania can institute reasonable cost sharing; (4) Whether – and how – Pennsylvania can establish incentives for people to move from Medical Assistance; (4) How Pennsylvania can create incentives for instituting best practices and quality care; and (5) If – and how – Pennsylvania will move to managed long-term care. Acting Secretary Mackereth said that the health insurance exchange will be in operation by October 2013. In a separate report to the committee DPW Acting Chief Information Officer Jim Weaver presented an overview of the system development efforts to implement the health insurance exchange based on the federally facilitated marketplace (FFM). The project is a joint effort between DPW and the PA Insurance Department. A progress meeting with CMS is scheduled for April 30. Weaver said that he anticipates the core requirements under the Affordable Care Act (ACA will be released in September 2013 followed by system modifications to enhance MAGI eligibility and renewal processing in December 2013. FMI: See http://listserv.dpw.state.pa.us/scripts/wa.exe?A2=ind13&L=NEWS-RELEASES&P=27624

OLTL Responds to CMS on Waivers, Studies SC Rate Review & HCBS Eligibility

At the April 25 meeting of the PA Department of Public Welfare (DPW) Medical Assistance Advisory Committee (MAAC) DPW Deputy Secretary of Long Term Living Bonnie Rose updated the committee on DPW administration of Medicaid waivers. Regarding waiver renewals Rose said that comments on the waiver renewal submission have been posted on the DPW website. She said that OLTL is responding to informal comments received from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). She also reported that OLTL is working with Mercer on the Service Coordination Rate Review Process and has formed a working group of six providers, three AAAs and three under 60 providers. The group will hold its first meeting on May 1. Rose also reported that OLTL is working on the eligibility process for home and community based services (HCBS). She said that a review of the front-end process has been completed and that a report and recommendations are being finalized. She said the review pointed out a need to review the service planning process as well. DPW asked its consultant (Mercer) to submit a proposal for that effort. FMI: See www.dpw.state.pa.us.
PA TBI Advisory Board Meets on May 3

On May 3 the PA Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Board will meet in Harrisburg, PA. The advisory board will receive updates from the PA Department of Health Head Injury Program, the Pennsylvania Brain Injury Coalition, the Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania (BIA-PA) and the PA DPW Office of Long Term Living. The TBI State Action Plan will be discussed. The LEND Advocacy Project will be presented to the board. Future TBI Advisory Board meetings in 2013 will be held on August 2 and November 1. TBI Advisory Board Meetings are scheduled from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm and will be located at the Giant Super Store 2nd Floor – Community Center, 2300 Linglestown Road, Harrisburg, PA 17110.

DBC Seeks Personal Stories on Value of Home and Community Based Services

The Disability Budget Coalition, which is comprised of more than 80 groups advocating for services and supports for Pennsylvanians with physical and sensory disabilities, is aiming to convince state policy makers that home and community-based services are a good investment. For that purpose DBC is seeking information from individuals receiving services or in need of services and is asking individuals to share their story with the public. DBC is asking respondents to use its form (a) to tell how the services individuals receive help them to be part of the community and avoid more costly institutional services or (b) to report on the problems they are having because they are not receiving the services they need. If individuals need help in filling out the form or would prefer to use another format, they are encouraged to call the Disability Rights Network of PA (DRNPA) at 1 717 236 8110 extension 400 or toll free 1 800 692 7443 extension 400, or TTY 1 877 375 7139 extension 400. Individuals should indicate that they are calling for help in completing the personal story form. Completed forms should be sent to: DRNPA Story Form, 1414 N. Cameron Street, Second Floor, Harrisburg, PA 17103 or FAX: 717-236-0192 or E-mail to ehowell@drnpa.org.

Statewide Research Study on Effective Employment Practices for People with Disabilities

The Lehigh Valley Center for Independent Living (LVCIL), in conjunction with the Lehigh Valley Research Consortium (LVRC), is currently conducting a statewide research study on best employment practices for people with disabilities. LVCIL says that it is focusing on what is working for individuals with disabilities who are employed. In its research LVCIL will be focusing on the employer's practices, policies, and attitudes that have led to the successful hiring of, and continued employment for, people with disabilities. LVCIL invites participation by employees and employers across Pennsylvania. Its study will include a series of interviews and focus groups with employees with disabilities and, in the later stages of the project, with employers. With the help of the LVRC, it will be conducting meetings through in-person interviews, phone interviews, phone conferencing, and online meetings. The data and results gathered will be developed into an informational DVD and other materials to educate and direct future employment practices. Those interested in participating in our project, should note that participants (a) are to be diagnosed with a disability before the age of 22-years old; (b) are to be employed with current employer for 2 or more years; (c) will be enrolled as volunteers; (d) will be assured all results and responses are confidential; (e) will be provided with a $25 stipend for participation; and (f) will be offered phone and/or online interviews will be provided to accommodate your busy schedule. For more information, contact Bethany M. Brown, M.Ed., Employment Practices Research Project Coordinator, at 610-770-9781 ext. 144 or email bethanybrown@lvcil.org. This project is supported through a grant from the Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Council.
RFP Submission Date for Disability Employment Summit Extended to May 10

Request for Presentation Proposals for the PA Disability Employment & Empowerment Summit (comprehensive, progressive summit on healthcare, employment, education, transportation and housing for people with disabilities) Wednesday, October 23, 2013—Friday, October 25, 2013 Radisson Hotel Harrisburg. See www.padesummit.org. Proposals for workshop presentations are due by Friday May 10, 2013, Eastern Time (New extended date). In order to submit a proposal, please use the attached Microsoft Word file. Email finalized proposals to: info@padesummit.org. Paper-based proposals will not be accepted for accessibility reasons.

Behavior Specialist Licensing Technical Support

On April 17 the Department of Public Welfare (DPW) and the Board of Medicine (BoM) conducted a web-conference designed to guide and inform professionals seeking to apply for a Behavioral Specialist license. The presentation addressed the history of licensing regulations and the coordinated support efforts of OMHSAS, the Bureau of Autism Services, and BoM. Also included in presentation materials are application instructions and a summary of key dates. More than 200 individuals and organizations participated. DPW said that in the coming weeks it will make available both the PowerPoint and a recording of the presentation. Once posted, it will be at http://www.parecovery.org/services_bhrs.shtml. A copy of the presentation slide deck is currently available through the courtesy of PCPA at http://www.paproviders.org/Pages/Autism_Archive/BS%20License_Webex_041713.pdf.

Recovery Sharing Workshops on May 20 and June 4

On May 20 and June 4 the Pennsylvania Mental Health Consumers' Association (PMHCA) and Mental Health Association in Pennsylvania (MHAPA) are sponsoring three Recovery Sharing Workshops for consumers, families, mental health professionals, and community members. Registrants will have the opportunity to participate in two of three breakout sessions about I'm the Evidence/Mental Health Campaign, Mental Health Advance Directives, and Building Leadership Skills for Leadership in Recovery. Workshops will be held on (a) Monday, May 20 in Mars at the Four Points Sheraton with a deadline for room reservations on April 28 and on (b) Tuesday, June 4 in State College at the Days Inn with a deadline for room reservations on May 2. Each workshop is held from 9 a.m.to 3:30 p.m. The cost is $10 per participant. FMI: Download a registration form at http://pmhca.org/recovery/RecoverySharingWorkshop.pdf. FMI: Contact Lynn Keltz (lynn@pmhca.org) or Samantha Harkins (samantha@pmhca.org) with PMHCA at 717-564-5930 or call toll free at 800-887-6422.

PHLP Offers Trainings on Health Choices

Pennsylvania Health Law Project (PHLP) is providing the second part of its trainings to educate consumers, family members and professionals with additional information on Medicaid coverage in HealthChoices. The trainings discuss how coverage changed with HealthChoices, review what to do if you are unhappy with your plan; describe what to do if a plan is denying a service or medication; and explain how HealthChoices increases rights with the Medical Assistance Transportation Program. PHLP encourages attendance at a free in-person training on Monday, April 29th in Wilkes-Barre; May 8 in Warren; May 17 in Towanda; and June 4 in Bloomsburg. Space is limited. RSVP through PHLP'S Helpline at 800-274-3258 or staff@phlp.org.
U.S. Congress Urged to Increase THUD Appropriation in FY 2014

PARF and numerous national, state, and local business, transportation, housing and community development, faith-based and civil rights organizations, as well as state and local officials in municipal, tribal and state governments have signed on to a letter urging members of Congress to increase the 302(b) allocation to the Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (THUD) to the highest possible level in fiscal year (FY) 2014. The letter says that the THUD bill’s investments yield high rates of social and economic return and an adequate THUD allocation should be a high priority. The letter notes that these investments have been cut sharply in recent Years and that even before sequestration, the FY 2013 302(b) allocation ($51.8 billion in budget authority) was 24 percent less than the FY 2010 enacted level ($67.9 billion). The letter notes urges the Committees to continue the practice of directing revenues generated within the Department of Transportation and revenues generated within the Department of Housing and Urban Development to programs administered by those departments. To read the letter, see http://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/FY14_302b_THUD_Ltr_4-15-13.pdf

New Working Agenda Released for ACCSES 2013 Annual Conference

This year’s ACCSES 2013 Annual Conference will be held on July 28-31, 2013 in Washington, DC at the Fairfax Hotel at Embassy Row. An updated agenda for the ACCSES 2013 Annual Conference has been released. To view it see http://accses.org/annual-conference. This year's conference includes educational, policy-focused sessions, as well as a set of breakout sessions designed to help to increase net income.

FMI: Contact ACCSES at 1501 M Street, NW - 7th Floor, Washington, DC 20005 or phone 202-349-4259

Grants for State Workforce Agencies Now Available through DOL

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) will fund four to eight cooperative agreements totaling nearly $18 million to improve educational, training and employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities. The grants represent the fourth round of funding through the Disability Employment Initiative, which is jointly funded and administered by two DOL agencies, the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) and the Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP). To date, DOL has awarded grants totaling more than $63 million in 23 states. The purpose of the cooperative agreements is to foster service delivery through the public workforce investment system for job seekers with disabilities. Funds will be awarded to state workforce agencies to collaborate with workforce investment boards in local areas. Awards will range from $1.5 to $6 million each to be spent over a three-year period. Programs will build upon the Labor Department's Disability Program Navigator Initiative and other model service delivery strategies such as Customized Employment and the Guideposts for Success. The solicitation for grant applications is at http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?mode=VIEW&oppId=231216. Prospective applicants are encouraged to view the online tutorial “Grant Applications 101: A Plain English Guide to ETA Competitive Grants” at http://www.workforce3one.org/page/grants_toolkit
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ACCSES Analysis of Continued Viability of Skill Development Centers Available

In response to inquiries by its state members, the national association advocating for community supports and employment services for people with disabilities (ACCSES) has developed a white paper on employment options for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, including working in skill-development centers (e.g., “sheltered workshops”), work crews/enclaves paying commensurate wages, and day habilitation programs, in addition to self-employment and supported employment. The ACCSES analysis is appropriate for use in various states. The analysis can be found at http://accses.org/CMS/Resources/dropbox/acceslettertonilsrichardsononthecontinuedviabilityofshelteredworkshops041913.pdf.

Senate Finance Committee Approves Nomination of Marilyn Tavenner as CMS Administrator

On April 23 the Senate Finance Committee approved the President’s nomination of Marilyn Tavenner as CMS Administrator. However, although Tavenner is expected to be confirmed, consideration of the nomination by the full Senate is being prevented by the decision of Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) to place a hold on the nomination. Senator Harkin has not explained his reasons for placing the hold but has expressed his concerns at a recent Congressional hearing with use of funds in the Public Health and Prevention Fund to pay for implementation of the Affordable Care Act. Tavenner is currently Acting CMS Administrator. FMI: See http://www.kaiserhealthnews.org/

HHS Blueprint to Advance Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services in Health Care

On April 24 the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released enhanced National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) in Health and Health Care – a blueprint to help organizations improve health care quality in serving the nation’s diverse communities. The enhanced standards, developed by the HHS Office of Minority Health, are a comprehensive update of the 2000 National CLAS Standards and include the expertise of federal and non-federal partners nationwide, to ensure an even stronger platform for health equity. The enhanced National CLAS standards are grounded in a broad definition of culture. The update marks a major milestone in the implementation of the HHS Action Plan to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities. Specifically, the enhanced CLAS Standards provide a framework to health and health care organizations for the delivery of culturally respectful and linguistically responsive care and services. By adopting the framework, health and human services professionals will be better able to meet the needs of all individuals at all points of contact. For additional information, please visit www.ThinkCulturalHealth.hhs.gov and www.minorityhealth.hhs.gov

Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility PPS PC Pricer Updated

The Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility (IRF) PPS PC Pricer has been updated with the January 2013 provider data, and is now available on the IRF PPS PC Pricer web page in the “Downloads” section. See http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/PCPricer/IRF.html. The pricer is for claims dated from October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013.
CMCS Publishes Bulletin on Implementation Affordable Care Act

On April 25 the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services issued a CMCS Informational Bulletin on the Affordable Care Act with questions and answers on the ACA. CMS said that it was pleased to announce the release of the next in a series of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) to address Affordable Care Act implementation questions. The FAQs address three main topics: availability of the 75 percent federal match for maintenance and operations, systems issues regarding communication between the Federally-Facilitated Marketplace and Medicaid, and further policy guidance regarding the use of section 1115 demonstrations. The FAQs may be accessed at: http://www.medicaid.gov/State-Resource-Center/FAQ-Medicaid-and-CHIP-Affordable-Care-Act-ACA-Implementation/FAQ-Medicaid-and-CHIP-Affordable-Care-Act-ACA-Implementation.html. If you have additional questions, please send them to CMCSPPACAQuestions@cms.hhs.gov.

CMS Fact Sheet on DMEPOS Competitive Bidding Program: Non-Contract Supplier

The “Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics & Supplies (DMEPOS) Competitive Bidding Program: Non Contract Supplier” Fact Sheet (ICN 900925) was revised and is now available in downloadable format. See http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/Downloads/DME-Noncontract-Factsheet-ICN900925.pdf. This fact sheet is designed to provide education on requirements for non-contract suppliers. It includes information on rented DMEPOS, enteral nutrition, mail order diabetes test strips, Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs), and other program requirements for non-contract suppliers.

CMS to Begin Accepting Suggestions for Potential PQRS Measures and Measures Groups in May

In May 2013 the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will begin accepting quality measure suggestions for potential inclusion in the proposed set of quality measures in the Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS) for future rule-making years. CMS is seeking a quality set of measures that are outcome-based and fall into one of the National Quality Strategy (NQS) Priorities domains where there are known measure and performance gaps. The measure gaps that CMS most wishes to fill include clinical outcomes, patient-reported outcomes, care coordination, safety, appropriateness, efficiency, and patient experience and engagement. Measures submitted for consideration will be assessed to ensure that they meet the needs of the Physician Quality Reporting Program. In addition, CMS encourages eligible providers to submit measures that do not have an adequate representation within the program for participation. When submitting measures for consideration, please ensure that your submission is not duplicative of another existing or proposed measure. Each measure submitted for consideration must include all required supporting documentation. Documentation requirements will be posted on the Measures Management System Call for Measures web page on or around May 1, 2013. Only those measures submitted in the provided format will be accepted for consideration. FMI: See http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/MMS/CallForMeasures.html. See also http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/MMS/Downloads/PQRS-Call-for-Measures-Announcement.pdf.