FEB 27 2019

Dear Tribal Leader and Urban Indian Organization Leader:

I am writing to update you on the plan for implementing the Resource and Patient Management System (RPMS) electronic Clinical Quality Measures (eCQM) Reporting Tool.

In a letter to Tribal Leaders and Urban Indian Organization Leaders dated November 19, 2018, I detailed the Agency's approach to updating the RPMS applications to comply with Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) data submission and reporting requirements. CMS requires eCQM reporting to participate in a variety of programs, including the Quality Payment Program and Promoting Interoperability (formerly known as Meaningful Use). One of these updates is the eCQM Reporting Tool, which uses electronically extracted data from the RPMS electronic health record to track specified quality of care outcome measures.

The RPMS eCQM Reporting Tool consists of two components and both are required as part of the CMS Quality Reporting Document Architecture (QRDA) data submission standards:[1]

1. The RPMS eCQM Export Tool exports data from the local facility RPMS database and generates an individual-patient-level report. This report contains quality data for one patient for one or more eCQMs. This data includes patient-specific personally identifiable information (PII).

2. The eCQM Engine calculates measure results and creates an aggregate quality report [QRDA Category III (CAT-III) files]. This report contains patient-specific PII. The eCQM Engine is separate from RPMS and can be deployed as either a centralized service housed at the Albuquerque Data Center or a local site installation.

Indian Health Service (IHS)-operated Federal facilities will be required to connect to the centralized service (eCQM Engine software). However, because the eCQM Export Tool in RPMS transmits sensitive PII to the eCQM Engine, facilities operated by Tribes, Tribal Organizations, or Urban Indian Organizations will need to review and sign the eCQM agreement to share this data with the eCQM Engine.

The IHS is currently developing this agreement, which plans to be completed by the end of the 2019 calendar year for each interested Tribe, Tribal Organization, or Urban Indian Organization to review and sign. For 2018 CMS Hospital Quality reporting, Tribal and Urban Indian Organization sites will need to install the eCQM Engine locally.

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[1] The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (December 2018). QRDA - Quality Reporting Document Architecture. Available online at https://ecqi.healthit.gov/qrda-quality-reporting-document-architecture.

Additional information is available online, including application documents, downloadable released software files, and a host of other important RPMS resources on the IHS RPMS Web site at http://www.ihs.gov/RPMS/. For user support services, please contact the IHS Service Desk by e-mail at support@ihs.gov or by telephone at (888) 830-7280.

I trust this update is helpful. The IHS is committed to supporting all facilities in the reporting of quality measures. If you have any questions, please directly contact Dr. Susy Postal, Chief Health Informatics Officer, IHS, by e-mail at susy.postal@ihs.gov or by telephone at (301) 348-3378.

Sincerely,

/Michael D. Weahkee/

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