

## Project Title: Closing the Results Follow-Up Loop Quality Measure Development

### Dates:

Once dates and times are final, the following list will be updated. (The number of webinars may be subject to change.)

- March 3, 2020 11:00 – 12:00 PM ET: Orientation Webinar
- April 28, 2020 8:30 – 3:00 PM ET: In-Person Meeting (Reston, VA)
- June 2020: Webinar #1
- July 2020: Webinar #2
- January 2021: Webinar #3
- April 2021: In-Person Meeting #2 (Reston, VA)

### Project Overview:

In late 2019, the American College of Radiology (ACR) was awarded funding by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation to develop the Closing the Results Follow-Up Loop (Closing the Loop) quality measure(s). This financial award (grant number 9053) is part of the Moore Foundation Diagnostic Excellence Initiative, which aims to reduce harm from erroneous or delayed diagnoses. The Initiative also addresses a need to improve diagnostic performance, reduce costs and redundancy in the diagnostic process, improve health outcomes, and save lives.

As proposed, the patient-centered Closing the Loop quality measure will assess diverse practices' adoption of systematic tracking and care coordination to encourage the delivery of evidence-based radiologist-recommended follow-up care. Results of successful performance in the proposed measure include higher volumes of patients benefitting from early detection of cancer or other treatable conditions and ensuring the delivery of recommended treatment.

As part of its measure development process, the ACR convenes stakeholders and experts who contribute direction and thoughtful input to the measure developers during measure development and maintenance. ACR's Closing the Loop measure development technical expert panel (TEP) comprises of diverse stakeholders who are committed to ensuring the delivery of high-quality patient-centered care.

### Project Objective:

ACR will develop a fully specified, meaningful clinical quality measure to improve the timely delivery of recommended treatment. In meeting the project's objective, ACR intends for the proposed measure to increase positive health outcomes for those whose imaging studies detect incidental findings with an evidence-based indication that warrants follow-up.

### **TEP Objectives:**

Throughout this 18-month measure development project, the TEP will achieve multiple objectives that will drive toward finalizing a meaningful, high-quality measure(s) linked to patient outcomes.

- Review and provide input on the iteratively updated environmental scan. This scan will comprise of evidence-based peer-review journal articles, clinical guidelines, related or competing quality measures that exist in the national quality measure landscape, and nationally released and accepted reports. The scan is multipurpose; it will identify care gaps, support the case for the measure's development and implementation, and establish the strength of the evidence for decisions made by the TEP.
- Work with the measure developers as they formulate and disseminate a survey to collect data on the elements, processes, and infrastructure that exists within practices already implementing a method for closing the results follow-up loop. The TEP may utilize the survey results to inform decisions regarding measure design and scope.
- Inform and refine the measure's specifications, data elements, and test data, as well as deliberate over potential revisions resulting from the measure's public comment periods.
- Identify additional metrics that are appropriate to include as part of this measure or for potentially new related measures.
- Determine the measure's usability in accountability and public reporting programs and/or internal quality improvement initiatives.

### **Scope of Responsibilities:**

The TEP, uniquely selected for their expertise and experience associated with the measure concept, will contribute their input and advice to the measure developers during instrumental phases of the measure development cycle.

### **Guiding Principles:**

The TEP co-chairs and members and measure developers will implement the guiding principles during the project. The principles support the project's objectives and goals. They also ensure the delivery of a product that is meaningful, valid, and useful.

1. Guidance on all steps of the quality measure development process will be facilitated by the TEP co-chairs and measure developers, including ACR's contracted consultants.
2. All parties involved will share their expertise and perspectives based on what is safe and meaningful to patients and clinicians.
3. Decisions will align with CMS' Meaningful Measures Framework and its goals and objectives.
4. Ensure that the end product aligns across appropriate practices.
5. Address a performance gap where there is a known variation in performance, not just a measure gap.
6. Encourage respectful collaboration among all participants and share best practices/new findings freely.



7. When appropriate, link patient-centered outcomes that span across clinical settings, which may require different “versions” of the same measure (i.e., different cohorts, but the same numerator); it is important to test each of these setting-specific versions for reliability and validity. Including systems-, facility-, and provider-level measurement data collection.
8. Where possible, identify and eliminate disparities in the delivery of care.
9. Guard against unintended consequences of measure implementation, including overuse and underuse of care.
10. Strive to reduce clinician burden in reporting measures.

**Date approved by TEP co-chairs: February 11, 2020**