



ARN Supports Appropriate Quality Measures and Outcomes across the Post-Acute Care Continuum

The Association of Rehabilitation Nurses (ARN) is a professional nursing organization representing more than 5,300 rehabilitation nurses and more than 13,000 Certified Rehabilitation Registered Nurses (CRRN). ARN promotes and advances professional rehabilitation nursing practice through education, advocacy, collaboration, and research to enhance quality of life for those affected by disability and chronic illness.

Support Appropriate Quality Measures and Outcomes across the Post-Acute Care Continuum

Establishing effective quality measures within and across the Post-Acute continuum of care is essential in improving quality of care.

Following the passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) in 2012, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) submitted the National Quality Strategy (NQS) Report to Congress. The report embraced a focus on quality of care, as measured by clinical and patient-reported outcomes. To carry out the NQS, Congress engages with the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and National Quality Forum (NQF) to recommend and implement specific clinical and patient-reported outcomes measures.

The *Improving Medicare Post-Acute Care Transformation Act of 2014* (IMPACT Act), which was signed into law in October 2014, is an important step in implementing the NQS. The IMPACT Act lays out a timeline to establish measures and collect standardized patient assessment data across post-acute care (PAC) settings. CMS will then use standardized patient assessment data to compare outcomes between various PAC settings including: inpatient rehabilitation facilities, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, and long-term care hospitals. Data collection is being phased in over three years, beginning October 1, 2016 with expected completion in January 2019.

ARN strongly supports new and existing quality measures that are clinically relevant and patient centric. Quality measures should not be overly burdensome for rehabilitation nurses and should be true quality indicators that are aligned across PAC settings.

Recommendation: Ensure harmonious and equal measures across the post-acute care continuum.

If you have additional questions about these issues please contact ARN's Health Policy Associate, Jeremy Scott (202/230-5197, jeremy.scott@dbr.com).