

Rural Quality Improvement Technical Assistance (RQITA)

TASC 90 Webinar
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Rural Quality Improvement Technical Assistance Center (RQITA)

- Three-year cooperative agreement from HRSA Federal Office of Rural Health Policy
 - Awarded to Stratis Health starting September 2015.
- Stratis Health is an independent nonprofit organization that leads collaboration and innovation to health care quality and patient safety
 - Long history of working with rural providers, CAHs and the Flex Program
 - Other Federal roles have included QIN-QIO and HIT Regional Extension Center

RQITA's Purpose

- Improve quality and health outcomes in rural communities through TA to beneficiaries of FORHP quality initiatives
 - Medicare Rural Flexibility Program (Flex) Medicare Beneficiary Quality Improvement Program (MBQIP)
 - Small Health Care Provider Quality Improvement Grantees (SCHPQI)
- Intended to fill gaps, not replace existing quality TA already in place

RQITA Partners

RQITA will work closely with FORHP and partners, including:

- National Rural Health Resource Center, Technical Assistance Services Center (TASC)
- Flex Monitoring Team (FMT)
- State Offices of Rural Health (SORHs)
- Georgia Health Policy Center

RQITA's Areas of Focus

- Data collection and analysis
- Understanding measure specifications
- Benchmarking and target-setting
- Developing and implementing efficient and effective improvement strategies
- Tracking the outcomes of quality improvement efforts

RQITA Team

- Karla Weng, Project Lead
- Robyn Carlson, Quality Reporting Specialist
- Marilyn Grafstrom, Quality Improvement Specialist
- Laura Grangaard Johnson, Data Analyst
- Deb McKinley, Communications Manager
- Jodi Winters, Administrative Support
- Amy Heikkinen, HIT Consultant (SCHPQI)

Stratis Health RQITA Leadership:

- Jennifer Lundblad



RQITA MBQIP Support: Tools and Resources

- Monthly Reporting Reminders (steal sheet)
- MBQIP Measure Fact Sheets
- EDTC Data Collection webinars and tips (late 2015)
- MBQIP Reporting Checklist (early 2016)
- MBQIP Improvement Guide – Update/Revision (early 2016)
- HCAHPS Response Rates – Best Practices (Spring 2016)
- QI Basics for CAHs (Resource list spring 2016)

Initial focus on required MBQIP measures, updates to include additional MBQIP measures later in 2016.

All resources will be posted to TASC website



MBQIP Support: Communication and Networking

- MBQIP Monthly (early 2016)
 - Newsletter to include best practices, highlights of high performers, data updates, etc...
- MBQIP Networking Calls (early 2016)
 - Every other month, MBQIP/Flex Leadership in each state
 - Share successes and challenges
- Presentations
 - New Flex Coordinator Training and Flex Reverse Site Visit
 - Ad Hoc, as resources allow

RQITA MBQIP Support: Direct TA

Process for TA Requests/Questions

- CAHs contact state Flex Program as first line of support
- MBQIP Questions to TASC, tasc@ruralcenter.org
 - TASC in ‘triage’ role:
 - Respond/Resolve
 - Forward to RQITA or FORHP as appropriate
 - TASC and RQITA have processes in place to connect with state Flex when contacted directly by CAH

Rural Quality Advisory Council

- Convened by RQITA on behalf of FORHP:
 - 15 – 20 members, quarterly by conference call
 - Representation across FORHP programs, and types of rural providers, geographic
- Purpose:
 - Provide feedback, guidance, and insight on the development, implementation, and evaluation of the Rural QI TA strategies.
 - Offer advice and counsel more broadly on development of rural-relevant quality improvement goals and metrics, and integration into new and existing FORHP funded programs.



Questions?

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Stratis Health, based in Bloomington, Minnesota, is a nonprofit organization that leads collaboration and innovation in health care quality and safety, and serves as a trusted expert in facilitating improvement for people and communities.

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