Division of Healthcare Quality Evaluation  
Current Externally Funded Research Projects

> **Measurement that Matters: Retooling Risk Adjusted Outcome Measures to Support Practical Data Collection through Electronic Health Records**

**Funder:** Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)  
**Subcontract:** Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)  
**Start Date:** 4/1/2015  
**End Date:** 3/31/2017  
**Contact:** Schmaltz, Stephen  

The introduction of the electronic health record (EHR) across the broad spectrum of health care is expected to provide new opportunities to access and gather data. The proposed work explores the newly available opportunity to efficiently and inexpensively collect risk adjusted clinical outcome data directly through the EHR. This could have far reaching implications for the entire health care field as outcome measures quantify the end results of health care services, and they are a significant area of interest to stakeholders and the consumers of health care.

> **Respiratory Protection Program Resources: Expanded Dissemination Proposal**

**Funder:** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), NIOSH  
**Subcontract:** NIOSH/NPPTL  
**Start Date:** 3/10/2015  
**End Date:** 3/15/2016  
**Contact:** Braun, Barbara  

As part of a contract funded through CDC/NIOSH/NPPTL, The Joint Commission developed an educational monograph designed to assist hospitals in addressing common challenges and barriers in the implementation of their respiratory protection programs. The monograph, *Implementing Hospital Respiratory Protection Programs: Strategies from the Field*, features examples, strategies, new resources, and a variety of implementation approaches which were solicited from the field and vetted through an eight-member Technical Expert Panel (TEP). In order to reach a larger audience, The Joint Commission received additional support to augment dissemination activities to include presentations at three national conferences and participation in joint webinars.

> **Independent Grants for Learning and Change (IGLC) Collaboration: Transitions of Care (TOC) among a Defined Venous Thromboembolism Patient Population**

**Funder:** Pfizer IGLC and Bristol-Myers Squibb Independent Medical Education  
**Subcontract:** Pfizer IGLC  
**Start Date:** 2/10/2015  
**End Date:** 10/1/2017  
**Contact:** Williams, Scott  

Phase II of the Pfizer IGLC collaboration will utilize the established Request for Proposal (RFP) process to identify, fund and oversee projects related to transitions of care (TOC) among a defined venous thromboembolism patient population. As with phase I, Pfizer IGLC (in collaboration with Bristol Myers-Squibb) will fund the projects, with administrative oversight from the Joint Commission.

> **Hospital Inpatient and Outpatient Structural and Process Measure Development and Maintenance (TORP #141191)**

**Funder:** Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)  
**Subcontract:** Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.  
**Start Date:** 8/25/2014  
**End Date:** 8/25/2018  
**Contact:** Sprenger, Sharon  

The Joint Commission will support maintenance, retooling, and new measure development on this
The Joint Commission will maintain the measures which they steward across the Inpatient Quality Reporting (IQR) and Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive programs, and will apply measure maintenance experience to lead the maintenance of the potential cancer process measures. Joint Commission will support testing of retooled and new process measures by utilizing relationships with measure stewards and their existing networks and by applying clinical expertise.

**Electronic Clinical Quality Measures (eCQM) Development and Maintenance for Eligible Professionals (TORP #141189)**

Funder: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
Subcontract: Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.
Start Date: 6/19/2014    End Date: 6/19/2018    Contact: Sprenger, Sharon

The focus of this project is to develop new eCQMs and their electronic specifications as well as the transmission specifications as specified by CMS for reporting from certified EHR systems and submit the final developed measures to NQF for possible endorsement. Specific tasks include: developing a methodology to harmonize eCQM components, including eligibility criteria, such as population inclusion and exclusion criteria, as well as developing methods for determination of physician attribution, change in health status and performance calculations for different types of quality measures (e.g. structure, process, outcome measures for the ambulatory care setting); developing eCQMs that apply to all patients, when appropriate (i.e. not just for Medicare patients); and serving as subject matter experts.

**Strategies for Improving Rapid influenza testing in Ambulatory Settings (SIRAS) - Course Maintenance and Assessment II**

Funder: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
Subcontract: N/A
Start Date: 9/17/2013    End Date: 9/16/2018    Contact: Chitavi, Salome

As part of a previous contract, the Joint Commission worked with the CDC to produce and offer a free, web-based course to educate clinicians about the appropriate use of RIDTs within the context of circulating influenza types and prevalence in the population. Through this cooperative agreement, the Joint Commission will continue to host, promote, and update the course, continue to provide CE credits, and continually evaluate course content.

**Improving Hospital Informed Consent with an Informed Consent Toolkit**

Funder: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)
Subcontract: Abt. Associates
Start Date: 9/9/2013    End Date: 10/31/2016    Contact: Chitavi, Salome

The aim of this project is to create a validated informed consent toolkit to help hospitals improve their informed consent process. Abt Associates is the lead on the project and The Joint Commission has a teaming agreement with Abt to assist in the convening of the expert stakeholder panel, assist in developing the content for the informed consent toolkit, and to develop an electronic learning management system to evaluate the usefulness of the tool.

**National Quality Measures Clearinghouse/National Guidelines Clearinghouse Subcontract**

Funder: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)
Subcontract: ECRI Institute
Start Date: 8/1/2013    End Date: 8/1/2017    Contact: Sprenger, Sharon

The Joint Commission received an extension of funding for this project that depicts the national
measurement environment, including the relationship between and among key national organizations. The Joint Commission has been involved with ECRI on this initiative since its inception in 2007.

> **Phase I of Pfizer Independent Grants for Learning and Change (IGLC) Collaboration: Antimicrobial Stewardship**

**Funder:** Pfizer, Inc.  
**Subcontract:** N/A  
**Start Date:** 12/31/2012  
**End Date:** 9/30/2015  
**Contact:** Williams, Scott

Pfizer Independent Grants for Learning and Change (IGLC), previously known as the Pfizer Medical Education Group (PMEG), and The Joint Commission have successfully pilot tested a partnership with the long-term goal to support an array of projects designed to accelerate the adoption of evidence-based innovations that improve patient care. This collaboration was designed to utilize the Request for Proposal (RFP) process to identify, fund and oversee projects related to specific improvement objectives that align the mutual interests of patients, health care providers and the two partner organizations. Projects under this collaboration are funded by Pfizer IGLC and administered by The Joint Commission. Phase I of this collaboration provided a funding opportunity for antimicrobial stewardship. The goal of this RFP was to accelerate the development and adoption of evidence-based approaches that have the capacity to prevent or contain antimicrobial resistance (AMR), and that support and promote appropriate use of antimicrobial agents. Three projects related to antimicrobial stewardship were awarded during phase I of this project.

> **Blood Management Measures in Electronic Health Records**

**Funder:** Masimo Corporation  
**Subcontract:** N/A  
**Start Date:** 10/1/2011  
**End Date:** 12/31/2015  
**Contact:** Watt, Ann

Format the blood management measures for use in Electronic Health Records (EHRs).

> **Safety Programs for Long-Term Care**

**Funder:** AHRQ  
**Subcontract:** Health Research and Education Trust (HRET)  
**Start Date:** 5/20/2015  
**End Date:** 9/18/2015*  
**Contact:** Braun, Barbara

The Joint Commission will join HRET on a project to implement a Comprehensive Unit-based Safety Program (CUSP) to reduce catheter-associated urinary tract infection (CAUTI) in long term care facilities. The Joint Commission will recruit LTCFs to participate in the project, and will serve as the lead organization of this cohort. In addition to recruiting, The Joint Commission will provide mentoring and coaching activities to participating LTC facilities to meet the data and information submission requirements of the project. *Depending on project activities, an additional option year may be added to the project.

> **Midwest Small Practice Care Transformation Research Alliance (M-SPCTRA)**

**Funder:** Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)  
**Subcontract:** Chicago Health IT Regional Extension Center  
**Start Date:** 4/1/2015  
**End Date:** 3/31/2018  
**Contact:** Baker, David

The aim of this project is to work together with a multidisciplinary consortium to test the feasibility and effectiveness of point of care strategies (i.e., at the time of a visit) and population-based management strategies (i.e., systems-based approaches to preventive and clinical care) in EHR-enabled primary care practices. Knowledge gained from the project will create a robust, and
sustainable quality improvement infrastructure positioned to translate PCOR findings efficiently into primary care practices within a region. Dr. Baker will provide subject matter expertise and oversight.

**Task Order Contracts (IDIQs)**

> **Safety and Healthcare Epidemiology Prevention Research Development (SHEPheRD) - PRIME Contract holder**

- **Funder:** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- **Subcontract:** N/A – partners listed below
- **Start Date:** 10/1/2011  **End Date:** 9/20/2016  **Contact:** Braun, Barbara

SHEPheRD is a five year IDIQ contract established by CDC to obtain required services through issuance of individual task orders in support of healthcare-acquired infection (HAI) prevention research studies that meet CDC public health priorities. The Joint Commission is PRIME contractor and has several partners, including: Joint Commission Resources, Inc.; Detroit Medical Center, Detroit, MI; Kaiser Permanente Health System, Northern Region, Oakland, CA; Methodist Hospitals of Memphis, TN; Stamford Hospital, Stamford, CT; University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA; Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN; Veterans Administration (VA) Iowa City Health System, Iowa City, IA; and Wake Forest University School of Medicine, Winston-Salem, NC.

> **Measure Instrument and Development Support (MIDS) IDIQ**

- **Funder:** Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) - MIDS
- **Subcontracts:** Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. and Lantana (Small Business)
- **Start Date:** 9/16/2013  **End Date:** 9/15/2018  **Contact:** Sprenger, Sharon

The development and use of clinical quality measures remains a critical healthcare priority and the tool of choice for improving quality of care at the national, community and facility levels. The MIDS contract provides a vehicle to objectively evaluate and promote quality of care within the Federal quality reporting programs by aligning with the Measures Management Blueprint, a comprehensive and structured process for developing and maintaining evidence-based clinical quality measures (CQMs), including electronic CQMs, based on Electronic Health Records. Joint Commission is one of the subcontractors participating with Mathematica Policy Research Inc. to respond to the CMS Measurement Instrument and Development and Support (MIDS) release of task orders. The Joint Commission has also partnered with Lantana to response to small business set aside TORPS.

> **Accelerating Action for Learning and Change (ACTION III) IDIQ**

- **Funder:** AHRQ
- **Subcontracts:** Abt Associates and Johns Hopkins
- **Start Date:** 4/18/2014  **End Date:** 4/17/2019  **Contact:** Chitavi, Salome

This ACTION III IDIQ is a five year contract intended to promote and support the development, implementation, and dissemination of interventions in health care delivery to measurably improve the safety, quality, affordability, and accessibility of health care in the U.S. Task Orders awarded under ACTION III IDIQ Master Contracts will support field-based research. The Joint Commission has been part of the action network (ACTION, ACTION II) since 2006 and has agreed to partner with Abt Associates and Johns Hopkins on their responses to released task orders.

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