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Via E-mail: Quality.Alignment@MassMail.State.MA.US

Lauren Peters, JD
Co-Chair, EOHHS Quality Alignment Taskforce
1 Ashburton Place
Boston, MA 02108

Ipek Demirsoy, MBA
Co-Chair, EOHHS Quality Alignment Taskforce
1 Ashburton Place
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Ms. Peters and Ms. Demirsoy:

I am writing on behalf of Partners HealthCare System, regarding the draft report of the Quality Alignment Taskforce on Work through July 2018.

We commend the Taskforce for its efforts over the past year to harmonize and streamline quality measurement across multiple stakeholders in Massachusetts, and agree *in concept* with the notion of a core measure set. However, the proposed core measure set includes claims-based HEDIS measures, which we believe have become obsolete.

Over the past several years, we have been working to replace HEDIS measures with measures that are derived from electronic health records (EHR). We believe that well-designed EHR-derived measures will better engage our clinicians and minimize the administrative burden associated with quality improvement.

While we would prefer a process that outlines a long term goal to not include any HEDIS measures, we could support a defined menu of options that includes such measures, so long as providers and payers have the ability to select among the options, and are not limited in their ability to collaborate on innovative measures.

To that end, we applaud the Taskforce for including an “innovation” category in the proposed measure set, which would allow for the use of novel measures in contracts. But, we are concerned with the lack of specificity around what actually constitutes a “novel” measure. We would urge the Taskforce to explicitly include the use of EHR-derived measures in this category.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. We look forward to working with you to ensure that Massachusetts has a robust set of quality measures that are useful to providers and payers alike – and that ultimately helps to improve care for patients. Please do not hesitate to contact me, should you have any questions or wish to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Sequist', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Thomas D. Sequist, MD MPH
Chief Quality and Safety Officer
Partners HealthCare