



## Newsletter | Volume 4, Issue 4



### Inspiring

Our drive and passion starts with our vision of a healthy Michigan at an affordable cost

## June 2020 Highlights

### Current Focus

- 1 Best Practice Guide for Post-Acute Care & Care Management Proforma Release
- 2 Quality Measure Validation Team Launch
- 3 COVID-19 Mitigation - Patient Outreach

### Top Decisions Made

- Annual Release Authorization (RA) process for the Constellation quarterly attribution updates approved
- Alternative strategic planning and process for joint contraction plan moving forward approved and moved out to Q4 of 2020

## COVID-19 Resource Hub | [affirmant.com/covid-19](https://affirmant.com/covid-19)

Your Affirmant team is here to support you. One way we are doing this is by creating a [COVID-19 Resource Hub](#) on our website. This page features toolkits, information and models to help your organizations address critical clinical, financial and operational issues specific to the pandemic. We have also included resources for independent physicians.

## COVID-19 Resource Hub

While you and your organizations are dealing with the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, your Affirmant team is here to support you. We have created a [webpage](#) where you will find information, resources and tools to help you address critical clinical, financial and operational issues specific to this crisis.

## **Affirmant Response to COVID-19 | Paycheck Protection Program**

Affirmant applied for and received over \$300,000 through the Federal Paycheck Protection Program. These funds are intended to enable businesses impacted by COVID-19 to continue to pay employees for up to seven months. Although the funds have initially been provided as a low-interest loan from the Small Business Administration, the loan can be forgiven if the funds are used for approved purposes--e.g., payroll, rent, and utilities--and the number of employees is maintained. These funds are part of Affirmant's broader initiative to cut costs and defer expenses, eliminating the need for Member health systems to provide capital for Affirmant and the Federation ACO in 2020.

## **Payer Relationships | Priority Health and HAP update**



Affirmant is continuing to work with our contracted Medicare Advantage plans--HAP and Priority Health--to deliver value to our Chapters, participating providers, and patients. Our value-based agreement with Priority Health began January 1, 2019, and extends through December 31, 2020. The first year included upside-only gainsharing for a Medical Loss Ratio (MLR) of less than 87%, while the second year provides for both up- and down-side risk based upon a target MLR of less than 88%. A Joint Operating Committee involving health plan leaders, Affirmant management, and a Chapter Representative--in the case of Priority Health, this is Nancy Vannest, Vice President, Contracting and Bronson Network--meet regularly to develop and execute a mutually agreed upon annual business plan. We are in the process of reconciling our provider and patient rosters and expect to finalize our 2019 financial settlement by August.

Affirmant's agreement with HAP has a two-year term beginning January 1, 2020, and also provides for upside-only gainsharing in the first year and two-sided risk in the second year. Our Chapter representative for HAP is Gayle Biederman, PHO Director, Covenant HealthCare Partners. We are in the process of developing our HAP/Affirmant business plan and supporting HAP in applying to Medicare for expansion into the Southwest Michigan market.

## 2021 Federation ACO renewal process and deadlines

The Federation ACO will remain in Pathways to Success Basic Track, Level B (no downside risk), for 2021. The ACO has also chosen to continue beneficiary assignment based upon use of primary care services during 2021 ("retrospective" assignment).

CMS has now opened the annual ACO Change Request Cycle. This is the only time during the year to add new participant TINs to the ACO. It is also the time to make changes and deletions to the Participant List and Provider/Supplier List. While there are several opportunities to submit information to Medicare, providing as much information as possible prior to the first submission deadline ensures there is adequate time to resolve any submission errors. Following the first submission deadline, there are two Request For Information (RFI) periods--August 11-24, 2020 and September 16-22, 2020. CMS allows submission of changes to the ACO Participants List and ACO Provider/Supplier List during these two time periods, however, ACOs will not have the opportunity to correct deficiencies for submissions made during the September RFI period.

Affirmant will use Provider Roster data collected from the Chapters in June as the basis for the CMS Participant and Provider/Supplier Lists. Affirmant will send out these lists to the Chapters. Chapters are being asked to verify these lists and send them back to Affirmant by July 14, prior to the first CMS submission deadline. **Chapters will have the opportunity to add or delete participants and providers/suppliers from the Federation ACO no later than August 24**, the first RFI period, to enable any issues to be corrected during the September RFI period. For new participants, a fully executed ACO Participation Agreement will need to be scanned and emailed to Erik Pye at [erik.pye@affirmant.com](mailto:erik.pye@affirmant.com) prior to this deadline.

## ACO Attribution and Patient Outreach Toolkit | **Coming soon!**

Your Affirmant team is developing lists and a comprehensive toolkit to aid Chapters in determining ACO attribution and patient outreach. This toolkit will include suggestions for prioritizing patient outreach and scripts for different communications. More information on tools developed will be announced soon.

## ITBI | Quality Measures Validation Team Kickoff

The IT Quality Measures Validation team is officially up and running. The Quality Measures Validation Team will review and propose recommendations to the Measures Development Subcommittee based on a number of objectives for validating six different quality measures. Affirmant has developed a workbook, fact sheet and measures definitions to streamline the process and aid the Validation Team in their recommendations. Below is a list of objectives and challenges the team will be working to meet in the coming months. We are very excited to see the progress this team will make in our quality measure validation process and would like to thank and welcome all those, original validators and new, who have volunteered to join this team.

### Objectives

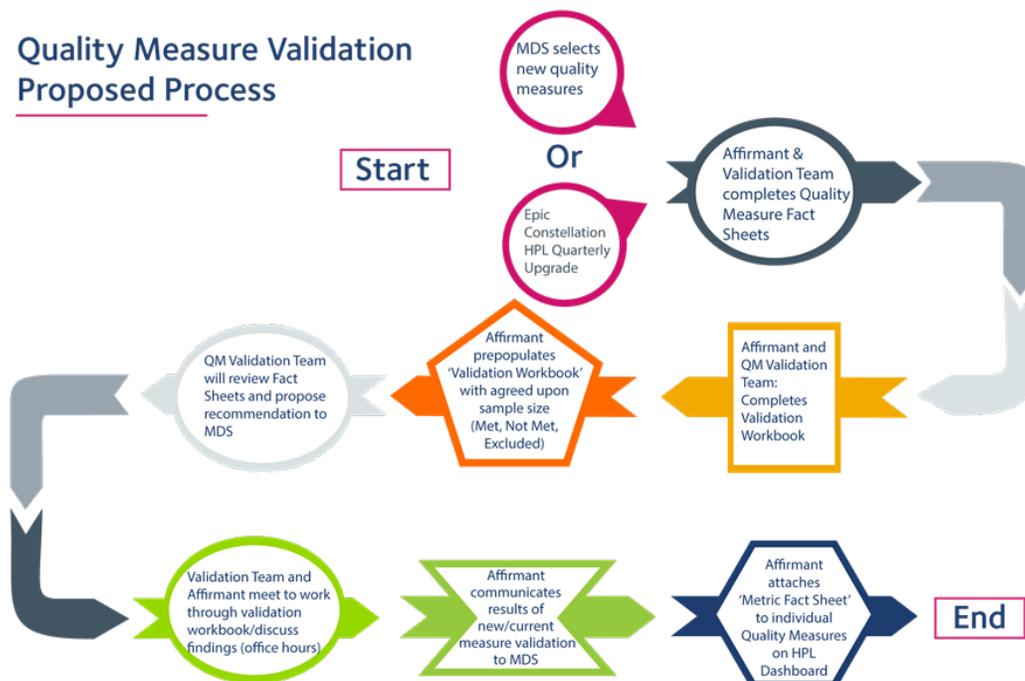
- Quality Measure Standardization – Agreement on Measure Definitions
- Quality Measure Data Integrity
- Validation post Epic quarterly upgrades
- New Measure Validation

### Challenges

- Mapping (labs/procedures)
- 6 Different Epic Environments
- Frequent Epic Upgrades
- Time Commitment



### Quality Measure Validation Proposed Process



## Post-Acute Care | Best Practice Guide now available in AIMS



The Post-Acute Care Best Practice Playbook is now available through the AIMS library.

"SNF networks and rounding models will improve the transition of care from acute care to SNF settings therefore decreasing readmission rates, reducing costs and improving in-network keepage. This Best Practice Guide implementation playbook summarizes the reason for action, provides a step-by-step guide for implementation, implementation checklist, implementation resources, and resource material."

The direct link is provided below through the Affirmant Information Management System (AIMS). If you need assistance in accessing AIMS please email [info@affirmant.com](mailto:info@affirmant.com).

[Best Practice Guide Link to AIMS](#)

## 2019 Value Report is Available Now!

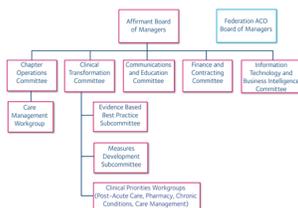


We are happy to announce Affirmant's 2019 Value Report is available to view digitally. Print copies are available by request.

If you would like to request a pdf or print copies, please email [angela.johnson@affirmant.com](mailto:angela.johnson@affirmant.com). View the report now on Affirmant's website.

[Affirmant 2019 Value Report](#)

## Committee Updates



Our Organization is physician-led and professionally managed. The Board of Managers consists of two representatives and a few advisors from each member system.

[Read More: Committee Updates](#)

# Leadership Retreat Update

Leadership Retreat 2020

## Postponed until further notice

The 2020 Affirmant Leadership Retreat, scheduled for May 21, 2020, has been postponed. We will communicate with our network once a new date has been identified.



## Connect with us on Social Media

Affirmant is on [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) to connect with current and potential stakeholders. This is also a great way for us to highlight the important work our member systems are doing. If you are active on any of these platforms, please find us and comment or tweet at us @Affirmant.



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