

MARYLAND HEALTH CARE COMMISSION

UPDATE OF ACTIVITIES

June 2021

EXECUTIVE DIRECTION

Government Relations and Special Projects- Tracey DeShields

State Policy Update

MHCC staff continues to develop workplans for projects required by bills passed and to study requests by Committees during the 2021 legislative session.

MHCC-related news coverage: selected articles and commentary

Health Facilities

Chason, R. "Long-awaited new hospital in Prince George's County to open this week." The Washington Post. June 7, 2021. Available from: https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/md-politics/prince-georges-hospital-largo/2021/06/07/b5ce4bb8-c795-11eb-a11b-6c6191ccd599_story.html

WCBC Radio. "UPMC Western Maryland provided \$68 million in community benefits." WCBC. June 10, 2021. Available from: <https://www.wcbradio.com/?archiv=upmc-western-maryland-provided-68-million-in-community-benefits-last-year-part-of-upmcs-1-7-billion-total>

My Eastern Shore MD. "UM Shore Regional Health announces new board officers." My Eastern Shore MD. June 18, 2021. Available from: https://www.myeasternshorem.com/qa/business/um-shore-regional-health-announces-new-board-officers/article_0804ad57-ff0c-511b-bee8-5315cb31d569.html

Health Disparities and Health Equity

CBS Baltimore Staff. "Baltimore Hospital among 8 nationwide seeking to reduce disparities in care for Black women with breast cancer." CBS Baltimore. June 7, 2021. Available from: <https://baltimore.cbslocal.com/2021/06/07/baltimore-hospital-among-8-nationwide-seeking-to-reduce-disparities-in-care-for-black-women-with-breast-cancer/>

WBOC. "CDC awards Maryland \$27.9M to address COVID-19 related health disparities." WBOC. June 11, 2021. Available from: <https://www.wboc.com/story/44082916/cdc-awards-maryland-dollar279m-to-address-covid19-related-health-disparities>

Maryland Trauma Physician Services Fund

Uncompensated Care Processing

Trustmark Health Benefits, the third-party administrator (TPA) for the Trauma Fund, processed \$154,723.26 for uncompensated care claims through June 2021.

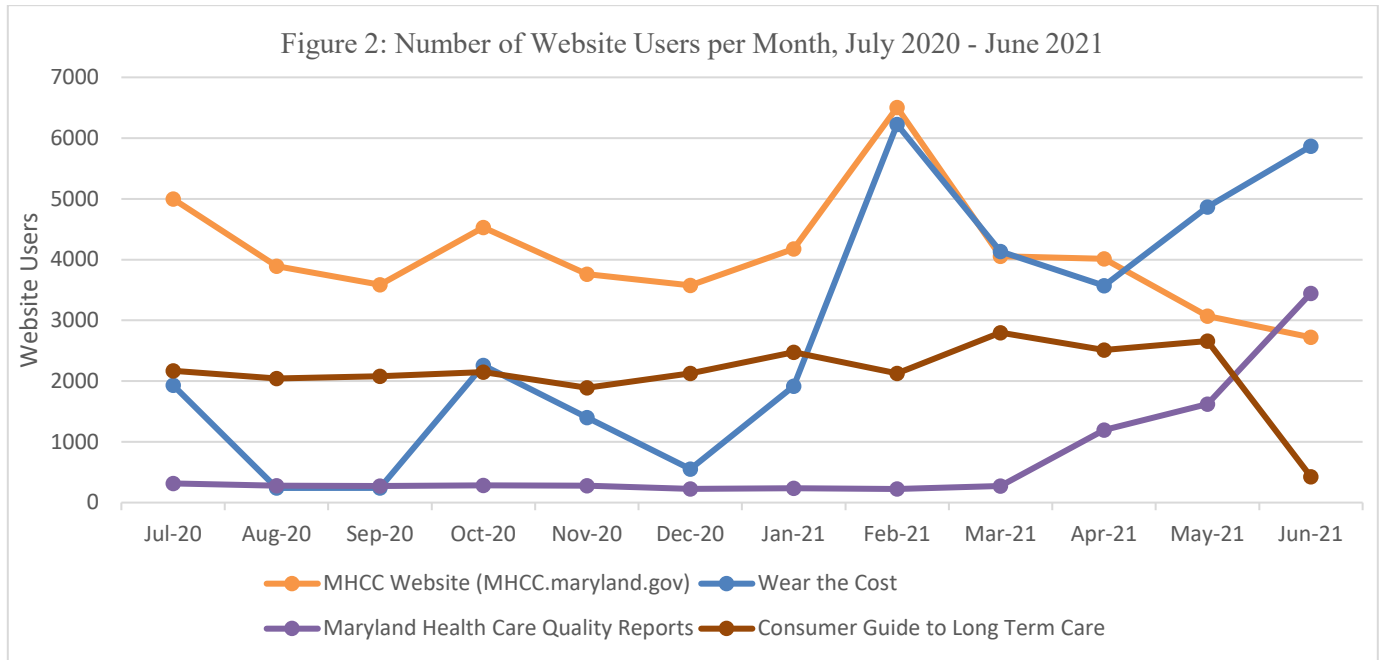
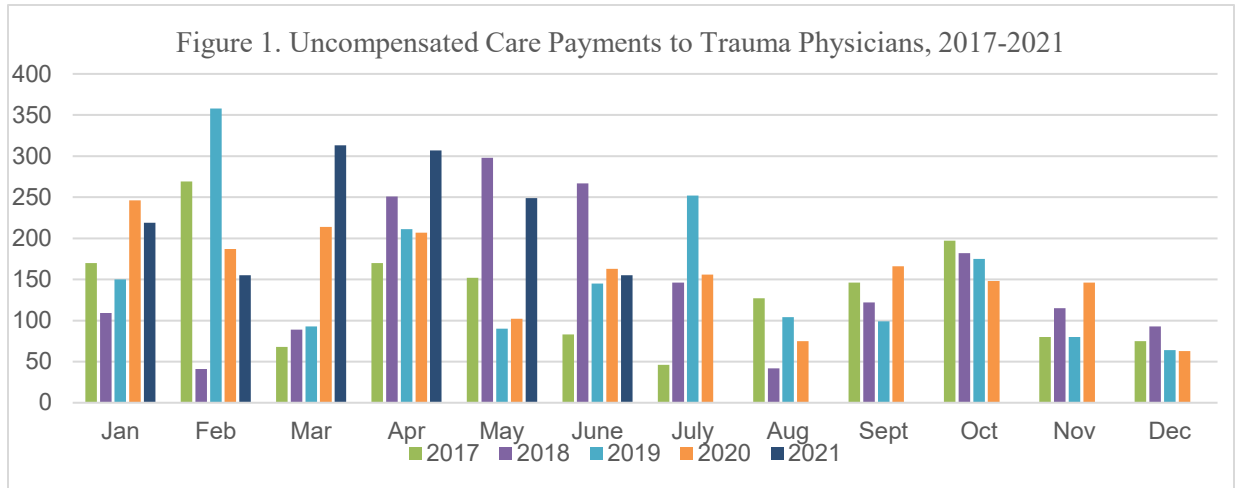


Figure 2 shows the number of website users over a 12-month period for each of the four websites maintained by Commission staff. Specific information about each website is below.

MHCC Website: The MHCC website (<https://MHCC.maryland.gov>) had 2,721 users in June.

Wear The Cost

Web traffic for the month of June was 5,867. The average web traffic has remained above 4000 for the last three months.

Consumer Guide to Long Term Care

For the month of June, the Consumer Guide to Long-Term Care had 426 users, 2,060 page views, and users spent an average 3.5 minutes on the website. The Consumer Guide was discontinued on Friday, June 11, 2021. Consumers who reach the URL are redirected to the Maryland Health Care Quality Reports website.

Maryland Quality Reporting

The Maryland Quality Reporting website had 3,447 users in the month of June which was significantly higher than May 2021 website activity (113%). The increase in website activity was expected as awareness of the site increases and the site benefits from redirects due the closure in mid-June of the Consumer Guide to Long Term Care. The Consumer Guide to Long Term Care had 2,000-2,500 visitors per month and staff believes that the level of utilization will migrate to Maryland Quality Reports site. New users increased by 121% and page views increased 126%, and the average session duration increased by 12.0%. The bounce rate also decreased by 5%, a positive improvement from the previous month.

The Maryland Quality Reporting website had 19 session referrals from Facebook and 5 session referrals from Twitter in June 2021. Twitter session referrals significantly increased from May 2021 to June 2021 (150.0%). Page views increased for both Facebook and Twitter referred sessions (5.3% increase from Facebook and 166.7% increase from Twitter). Although overall traffic from social sites remains small, the uptick in referrals is encouraging.

CENTER FOR ANALYSIS AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Cost and Quality Analysis – Shankar Mesta

Maryland Insurance Administration (MIA) Rate Review Support

MHCC staff delivered MIA reconciliation reports to the MIA to support the 2021 rate review process.

Staff provided enrollment and allowed claims data (2018-2020) for the individual and small group markets for Aetna, Carefirst, United Healthcare, and Kaiser payors. Exhibits displaying MCDB/MIA data reconciliations by service category (facility inpatient and outpatient, professional, and prescription drug) for three years by payor were provided to the MIA. In addition, staff also provided similar exhibits for fully insured and self-insured large group markets for 2019 and 2020.

APCD Public Reporting and Data Release – Mahlet 'Mahi' Nigatu

Data Release

CRISP Medical Model Analytics Application was approved and now working on the data use agreement which will be processed with creating the file.

CRISP submitted an application requesting the MCDB data for a project with two aims. First, the project aims to compare Ambulatory Surgery costs across payer cohorts and place of service. Second, the project aims to investigate the impact of Maryland's effort to improve care delivery and outcome to first-episode psychosis.

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Innovations in Physician, Physician Practice, and Social Determinants of Health Data. Applicant was requested to submit additional information.

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) is commissioning a feasibility study to create a "Physician and Physician Practice Research Database" (3P-RD) from administrative data resources. The 3P-RD is intended to be a prototype database that captures information on physician and physician practice characteristics to help address current data gaps within health services research. Once the application is deemed complete, it will move to the Data Release Advisory Committee for review.

Special Projects – Janet Ennis

RFP for Data Management Contractor for the Medical Care Data Base Released

A Request for Proposal (RFP) was issued and posted on both eMaryland Marketplace Advantage and the MHCC website in early May 2021 to continue the services of a Data Management vendor through a new competitively-bid procurement. Staff issued this solicitation to select a Contractor that can provide proficient services to sustain and enhance the Maryland Medical Care Data Base (MCDB) infrastructure, capability, and functionality. Staff held a largely-attended virtual pre-proposal conference on May 25th, and subsequently submitted/posted amendments and addenda in response to potential bidder questions and to correct or clarify some of the RFP language and requirements. An Evaluation Committee has been selected to review the proposals. The deadline to submit a proposal for this RFP is 4:00 pm on Monday, July 12, 2021.

CENTER FOR HEALTH CARE FACILITIES PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Acute Care Policy and Planning – Eileen Fleck

Certificates of Ongoing Performance for PCI

The Commission approved a Certificate of Ongoing Performance for the provision of percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) services on June 17, 2021 for Meritus Medical Center (Docket No. 19-01-CP028) and for UPMC Western Maryland (Docket No. 19-01-CP024). Both PCI programs were certified for a period of four years.

Certificate of Conformance for PCI

MedStar Franklin Square Medical Center submitted a letter of intent announcing its plans to apply for a Certificate of Ongoing Performance to introduce elective PCI services. The application is due July 23, 2021.

State Health Plan for Acute Hospital Services, COMAR 10.24.10

Commission staff established a work group for the update of the State Health Plan chapter for acute hospital services and began planning for the first meeting.

Long Term Care Policy and Planning – Linda Cole

FY 2020 Hospice Survey

The FY 2020 Maryland Hospice Survey was launched in March and final responses are due in early July 2021. To date, all hospices have submitted Part I responses and 11 have submitted Part II data. Some hospices have requested an extension for Part II data submission, since Medicare has delayed cost report deadlines for FY 2020. Technical assistance is ongoing and is provided by MHCC staff as needed.

Initiative for Innovation of General Hospice Services Delivery

In response to inquiries from hospices and health systems, the Commission has developed regulatory guidance for provision of general hospital services by innovative joint ventures comprised of licensed general hospice programs and hospitals. Because of MHCC law, the guidance requires implementation in collaboration with state health care facilities licensure and Medicare certification agencies:

https://mhcc.maryland.gov/mhcc/pages/hcfs/hcfs/documents/hcfs_guidance_innovative_hospice_programs.pdf

Gilchrist Hospice and Luminis Health System submitted a letter, based on the guidance, describing their planned joint venture. The posted guidance was outlined by staff at the June Commission meeting.

FY 2020 Long Term Care Survey

Data collection for the FY 2020 Maryland Long-Term Care Survey for adult day care, chronic hospital, and assisted living facilities was scheduled for completion on June 18, 2021. Due to the Juneteenth state holiday, staff gave the surveyed providers who had not completed the survey a ten-business day, fine-free, grace period, which ended on July 6, 2021. Staff also exempted some facilities that did not operate in 2020 due to the pandemic emergency. Staff continues to provide technical assistance as needed.

Certificate of Need – Wynnee Hawk

Changes in Approved CON

Shepard Pratt at Elkridge – (Howard County) – Docket No. 15-13-2367

Increase in project cost of this hospital relocation project from \$105,097,413 to \$112,524,426 and a change in the financing mechanism (additional debt, reduced philanthropic funding).

First Use Approvals

Shepard Pratt at Elkridge – (Howard County) – Docket No. 15-13-2367

Relocation of the special psychiatric hospital in Ellicott City to a site at the intersection of Route 103 and Route 1 in Elkridge. The replacement hospital will be a special psychiatric hospital with 85 beds.

Project Cost: \$112,524,426

Determinations of Coverage

Ambulatory Surgery Centers

Advance Surgery Center of Bethesda, LLC – (Montgomery County)

Acquisition of a 60% ownership share in this physician outpatient surgery center (POSC) by USP Maryland, Inc. (ultimately, Tenet Healthcare Corporation, Baylor University Medical Center, and HNC Surgery Center Holdings. The other owners, post transaction, are 16 physicians practicing at the POSC.

Columbia Aesthetic Surgery Center, LLC – (Howard County)

Establish a POSC with one non-sterile procedure room at 8860 Columbia Parkway, Suite 314, in Columbia. Erick Chang, M.D. is the owner.

Congressional Ambulatory Surgery Center, LLC – (Montgomery County)

Establish a POSC with two non-sterile procedure rooms at 14995 Shady Grove Road, Suite 400, in Rockville. (The project is identified as a relocation and replacement of a POSC operating at 15005 Shady Grove Road, Suite 130, in Rockville).

Urological Institute of Maryland, LLC – (Baltimore County)

Establish a POSC with one sterile operating room and two non-sterile procedure rooms at 1701 York Road, in Timonium. (This project is the same, essentially, as one authorized in February 2019. The determination for that project was voided for lack of performance.)

Capital Projects

University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center – (Anne Arundel County) – Amended Letter
Renovation of the second floor of the north tower to expand the cardiology department. The project will increase the number of cardiac catheterization labs from two to three, replace an existing lab, construct a new four-bay radial lounge, construct two new cardiac diagnostic rooms and renovate support space.

Revised Estimated Cost: \$5,290,300

\$1,000,000 is being requested from the Maryland Hospital Bond Project Review Program

MedStar-Harbor Hospital – (Baltimore City)

Rescission of the May 5, 2021 Determination of Coverage

Major renovation of the neonatal intensive care unit

Estimated Cost: \$2,400,000

\$1,200,000 is being requested from the Maryland Hospital Bond Project Review Program

MedStar-Harbor Hospital – (Baltimore City)

Capital project for major renovation of the special care nursery.

Estimated Cost: \$2,400,000

\$1,200,000 is being requested from the Maryland Hospital Bond Project Review Program

Licensure

Delicensure of Bed Capacity or a Health Care Facility

White Oak Medical Center – (Montgomery County)

Extension of the temporary delicensure of 10 acute psychiatric beds (adult) until December 31, 2021.

Other

Gilchrist Hospice Care and Luminis Health, Inc. – (Anne Arundel and Prince George’s Counties)

Provision of general hospice services by a joint venture comprised of Gilchrist Hospice Care, Inc. and Luminis Health, Inc., under the existing licensed authority of Gilchrist to provided hospice services in Anne Arundel and Prince George’s County. The proposed joint venture was determined to be consistent with MHCC guidance, subject to consideration by the Maryland Department of Health (health care facility licensure) and Medicare (certification).

Pending Notices of Acquisition/Change of Ownership for Comprehensive Care Facilities (Nursing Homes)

Crofton Convalescent Center t/a Crofton Care and Rehab Center

Crofton (Anne Arundel County)

Transaction:

Current owner, owner of bed rights and operator: Crofton Convalescent Associates Limited Partnership, LLP

Owner, owner of bed rights and operator post-transaction: 2131 Davidsonville PROPCO, LLC

Purchase Price: \$44,776,186

Ellicott City Health Care Center

Ellicott City (Howard County)

Transaction

Current owner and owner of beds rights: Maryland NH Asset, LLC

Operator and owner of beds rights post-transaction: OHI Asset (MD) Ellicott City, LLC

Purchase Price: \$14,206,033.17

South River Healthcare Center

Edgewater (Anne Arundel County)

Transaction:

Current owner and owner of beds rights: Maryland NH Asset, LLC

Operator and owner of beds rights post-transaction: OHI Asset (MD) Edgewater, LLC

Purchase Price: \$9,240,076.43

Forestville Healthcare Center
Forestville, Prince George's County

Transaction:

Current owner and owner of beds rights: Maryland NH Asset, LLC

Operator and owner of beds rights post-transaction: OHI Asset (MD) Forestville, LLC

Purchase Price: \$12,517,730.45

CENTER FOR HEALTH INFORMATION & INNOVATIVE CARE DELIVERY

Health Information Technology Division – Nikki Majewski, Division Chief

Legislative Study Required by HB 123/SB 3

The Emergency Request for Proposals (RFP) to identify a contractor to research and analyze the impact of audio-only and audio-visual technologies in somatic and behavioral health care, as required by the *Preserve Telehealth Access Act of 2021*, was released. Recommendations on telehealth coverage and payment levels relative to in-person care are due to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Health and Government Operations Committee by December 1, 2022.

Telehealth Environmental Scan

Data analysis is advancing on ambulatory practices' responses to a telehealth questionnaire. Responses were received from about 170 hospital-owned and independent practices. A summary of practices' use of audio-only and audio-visual technologies during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency is planned for release this summer.

Hospital Health IT Assessment

Drafting of an insights brief is progressing based on findings from the annual hospital health information technology (health IT) survey. All acute care hospitals in Maryland participated in a survey that assessed select aspects of electronic health records (EHR), health information exchange (HIE), telehealth, and cybersecurity. Completion of the brief is planned for this summer.

Breaches

A draft insights brief was finalized from an analysis of health care breaches affecting 500 or more records from 2018 to 2020. Breach data was obtained from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights public use file. The analysis centers on comparable states to Maryland based on total hospital inpatient days per capita. Stakeholder review of the insights brief is underway.

Electronic Data Interchange

Data analysis on payers' 2021 Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) Progress Report is underway. COMAR 10.25.09, *Requirements for Payers to Designate Electronic Health Networks*, requires payers with annual premiums exceeding \$1 million to report volumes on select administration transactions. A findings summary is targeted for release in the fall.

Nursing Home Health IT Assessment

Data analysis from 227 nursing home responses to the 2020 *Annual Long Term Care Survey* (survey) is underway. The survey includes questions about EHRs, HIE, telehealth, and cybersecurity. A brief is targeted for release in the summer.

CRISP Privacy and Security Audit

Staff is providing support to Myers and Stauffer LC in completing a review of the current System and Organization Controls (SOC) 2, Type 2, audit reports for vendors that provide HIE system integration with the State-Designated HIE (CRISP). A draft report on the SOC audit findings is targeted for release in August.

Telehealth Virtual Resource Center Material

Updates are underway to provider and consumer education materials to reflect changes in COVID-19 safety guidelines and the end of a State of Emergency on July 1st. Select technical capabilities for vendors included in the Telehealth Technology Vendor Portfolio (portfolio) are being added. The portfolio includes roughly 75 telehealth vendors and assists practices in compiling a list of telehealth solutions.

Cybersecurity Symposium

Planning has commenced on a hospital and nursing home leadership cybersecurity symposium (symposium). The symposium will include presentations on best practices related to managing cybersecurity risk. Consideration is underway for an in-person event in the fall.

Innovative Care Delivery Division – Melanie Cavaliere, Division Chief

Advanced Care Delivery

Practice Transformation Grant Activities

Development of the *Advancing Practice Transformation in Ambulatory Practices* (grant) practice application is progressing. The practice recruitment process will be led by MedChi Care Transformation Organization, which was awarded grant funding in June. Practice recruitment is targeted to begin in July; selection is anticipated to occur in September. Grant funding is designed to support up to 50 primary care and specialty practices to complete select practice transformation activities aimed at delivering efficient, high-quality, team-based care.

Practice Transformation Network

Planning is underway for an environmental scan to gauge transformation of select practices that participated in the 2016–2019 Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Practice Transformation Network (PTN) initiative. About 109 practices participated in the PTN. Lessons learned will inform strategies aimed at preparing practices to successfully participate in value-based payment arrangements.

Learning Networks

Preparations are proceeding for a provider symposium centered on care management and care coordination. The symposium will include perspectives from practices, payers, and hospitals. Planning activities are underway for a webinar focused on preparing podiatric practices for participation in advanced care delivery models. The events are targeted to occur in the fall.

Health Information Exchange Division – Alana Sutherland, Division Chief

Dental Health IT

The draft 2021 dental health IT questionnaire (questionnaire) was released to select dentists for review. The questionnaire collects information about dentists' use of EHRs, HIE, and teledentistry. Findings will be used to inform strategies aimed at expanding health IT diffusion among dentists.

Privacy and Security Regulations

Post & Schell, P.C. (contractor) began a review of HIE regulation sections .06, Auditing Requirements; .07, Remedial Actions to be Taken by an HIE; and .08, Notice of Breach and Non-HIPAA Violation. The contractor was engaged to recommend changes to modernize the 12 sections of the regulations.

Awareness Building

Staff sought stakeholder feedback on a draft HIE consumer-focused web page that includes information aimed at increasing consumer awareness of electronic health information exchange. The web page contains information related to consumer choice in HIE participation. Discussions are underway with the State-Designated HIE (CRISP), regarding building a consumer consent management application as required by House Bill 1375, *Health Information Exchanges – Electronic Health Information – Sharing and Disclosure* (2021 session). The bill requires CRISP to develop a centralized approach for consumers to opt-out or opt back into electronic health information exchange.

HIE Roundtable

Planning is underway, in collaboration with CRISP, for an HIE roundtable symposium with about 15 representatives from non-profit HIEs across the nation. The event is aimed at discussing barriers and challenges, beyond those associated with technology, and potential solutions, and is targeted to occur in the fall.

CENTER FOR QUALITY MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

The Maryland Quality Reporting (MQR) website

MQR Website Updates

Staff continue to work with Advanta Government Services (AGS), the website contractor, to update the newly redesigned website. A new Telehealth feature has been added to the homepage to direct consumers to information on telehealth services. Work is also underway to include a full inventory of all assisted living facilities in Maryland by county and zip code. The website includes a Provider Section that serves as a communication tool for stakeholders and providers. The Provider Section of the Quality Reporting website includes technical information on quality reporting requirements as well as statewide comparisons on federal quality measures for hospitals and nursing homes.

MQR website traffic

Staff monitors traffic to the consumer site using Google Analytics software. Website traffic in June was significantly higher than traffic trends in May (112% increase). The most frequently viewed topics on the MQR site include assisted living, nursing homes, and hospital price transparency. Traffic to the site is presented graphically under the Executive Direction section of this update.

Website Promotion: Approximately 75 social media posts initiated in June

Promotion of the MQR website is a Center priority. There were approximately 75 social media posts made in June. Topics included Men's Health Month, Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month, and National Safety Month. These topics generally coincide with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services National Health Observances or other important health related events and are designed to link readers back to the MQR website. Posts also focused heavily on promotion of the redesigned Quality Reporting site.

The staff is working with Maryland Public Television (MPT) and Baltimore County Libraries to develop promotional options for increasing public awareness of the MQR website. Staff will present the website during the August Baltimore County Library council meeting.

Hospital Quality Initiatives – Courtney Carta

Healthcare Associated Infections

All Maryland acute care hospitals are required to report healthcare associated infections to the CDC's National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN). MHCC publicly reports this data annually on the MQR consumer website. MHCC postponed public reporting last year during the pandemic. Staff resumed public reporting for 2019 data and validation is complete. Maryland hospitals performed better than the national experience for the following infection types: catheter associated urinary tract infections (CAUTI), central line associated blood stream infections (CLABSI), clostridium difficile (CDI), and methicillin resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA). Maryland hospitals performed about the same as the national experience on all reported surgical site infections including hip replacement, knee replacement, colon surgery, abdominal hysterectomy, and CABG. The Maryland hospital healthcare worker flu vaccination rate remains high at 97%. Validation for 2020 data will occur later this summer.

Long Term Care Quality Initiative—Stacy Howes

Nursing Home Family Experience of Care Survey

Results of the 2020 survey were presented at the May Commission meeting. At the meeting, Commissioners requested additional analyses to understand any disparities, and staff found that scores were statistically significantly lower across all domains among those who paid via Medicaid vs private payers and among non-whites compared to whites. Also, preliminary analyses indicate that resident COVID infections were statistically significantly correlated with satisfaction scores. Specifically, higher infection rates were associated with lower satisfaction scores, and lower infection rates were associated with higher satisfaction scores. Results will be discussed in the July Commission meeting. The 2021 survey kicked off in May.

Nursing Home and Assisted Living Influenza Vaccination Survey

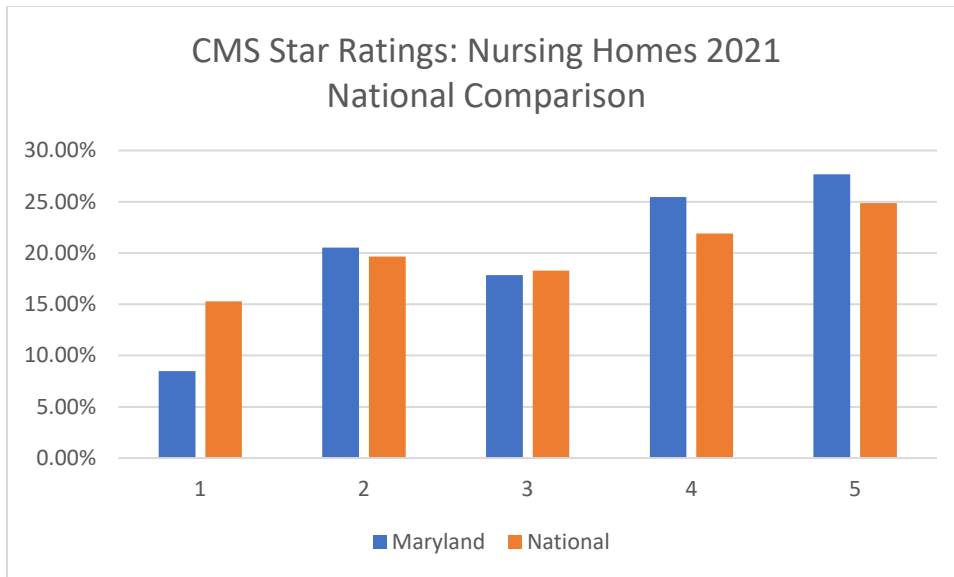
The electronic 2020-2021 influenza vaccination survey has been concluded and data are being analyzed and formatted for public reporting.

Hospice and Home Health Influenza Vaccination Survey

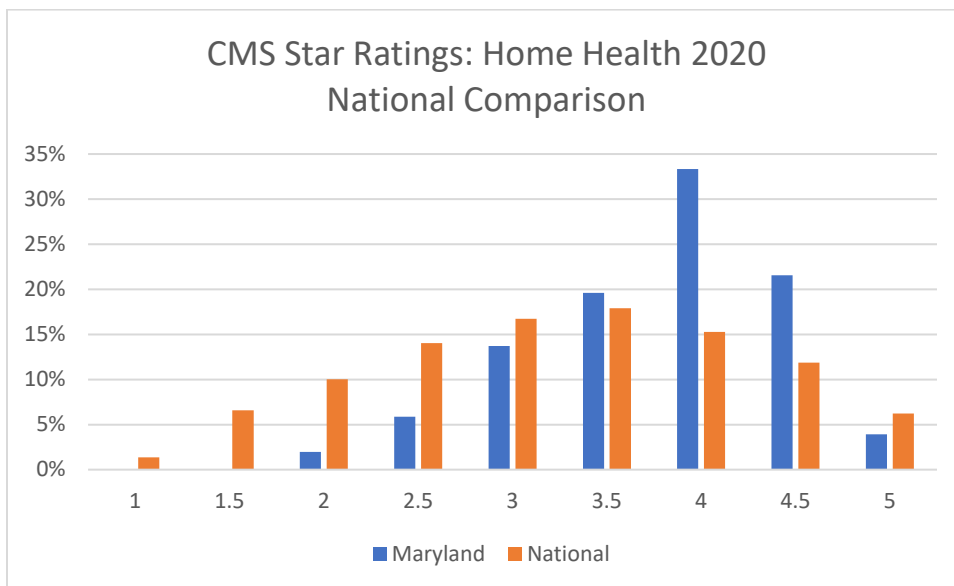
Agencies will receive letters alerting them to the new requirement in July, and it will include instructions on how to collect data over the flu season. The first year will be a pilot year.

CMS Overall Star Ratings for Nursing Homes and Home Health Agencies

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) uses a star rating system to measure nursing home performance to help consumers make informed healthcare decisions. The star rating summarizes a variety of measures across three areas of quality (health inspections, staffing information, and quality measures) into a single star rating for each nursing home (5 stars is the highest, 1 star is the lowest). The star ratings are updated approximately quarterly. Proportionally, Maryland had more 5-star and 4-star facilities compared to the nation. Maryland has about the same number of 3-star and 2-star facilities and fewer 1-star facilities compared to the nation, proportionally.



The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) uses a star rating system to measure home health agency performance to help consumers make informed healthcare decisions. The star rating summarizes data from seven quality measures into a single star rating for each home health agency (5 stars is the highest, 1 star is the lowest). The star ratings are updated approximately quarterly. Proportionally, Maryland had more 3.5-, 4-, and 4.5-star agencies than the nation but fewer 5-star agencies. Maryland had fewer 1-, 1.5-, 2-, 2.5-, and 3-star agencies than the nation.



Health Facilities and Planning Center Collaboration

Staff worked together to identify quality benchmarks for hospitals, home health agencies, and nursing homes that would like to open a home health agency in Maryland. Specifically, staff analyzed star ratings and CAHPS and Maryland Nursing Home Family Experience of Care data to determine benchmarks and identify qualifying facilities. Staff provided a document and accompanying worksheets detailing qualifications to be posted for public comment.

Outpatient Quality Initiative—Mariama Gondo

Health Disparities Initiative

The staff has drafted, tested, and released questionnaire that will collect information on MDH programs and activities, which serve vulnerable populations. Information from the questionnaire will be used in a report to the General Assembly on the scope and performance of current MDH programs that is required under House Bill 309/Senate Bill 565.

Staff continues to work with the website vendor (AGS) to enhance the health disparities portion of the consumer-based website. A feature that will be coming soon provides users with an interactive display of data based on the top health conditions (based on hospitalizations) by race and ethnicity.