

MARYLAND HEALTH CARE COMMISSION

UPDATE OF ACTIVITIES

February 2021

EXECUTIVE DIRECTION

Government Relations and Special Projects- Tracey DeShields

State Policy Update

On January 29th, MHCC Legislative Policy Calls with Commissioners will begin and will be held as needed on Fridays at 8AM during the legislative session. The purpose of the calls is to review legislation and to determine what position MHCC will take on various legislative bills. Maryland Department of Health legislative meetings began on January 15th and will be held as needed on Mondays at 1:00 pm.

On January 27, 2021 bill hearings were held on HB 123/SB 3 Preserve Telehealth Act of 2021. MHCC supported the bills with amendments which defined audio-only, established temporary parity of audio-only, audio-video, and in-person care, created a sunset date for parity on payment, and directed MHCC to conduct a study of cost, safety, and effectiveness of audio-only and audio-video care across the spectrum of behavioral health and somatic care. The results of the study would serve as one basis for establishing payment levels telehealth relative to in-person care.

MHCC-related news coverage: selected articles and commentary

Health Facilities and COVID19

Bonk, V. "Maryland awarded \$341M grant for coronavirus pandemic medical supplies." WTOP News. January 23, 2021. Available from: <https://wtop.com/maryland/2021/01/maryland-awarded-341m-grant-for-coronavirus-pandemic-medical-supplies/>

The Aegis. "Havre de Grace leaders, state delegates seek economic impact study of closure of Harford Memorial Hospital." The Baltimore Sun. January 20, 2021. Available from: <https://www.baltimoresun.com/maryland/harford/aegis/cng-ag-hdg-hospital-reuse-20210120-ft3jf6ulsrhtdepjmdytigw5a4-story.html>

Hospice Care and Nursing Homes

Woodward, M. "Four Carroll County elder care facilities recognized for short-term rehab performance by US News & World Report." Carroll County Times. January 23, 2021. Available from: <https://www.baltimoresun.com/maryland/carroll/news/cc-carroll-lutheran-village-release-20210123-5upbvt3gd5fylmubt7yhrzdqy-story.html>

COVID-19 Vaccine

Anne Arundel County. "Governor Hogan announces expansion of COVID-19 vaccine eligibility for Marylanders 65 and over." The Bay Net. January 15, 2021. Available from: https://www.thebaynet.com/articles/0121/governor-hogan-announces-expansion-of-covid_19-vaccine-eligibility-for-marylanders-65-and-over.html

Baltimore Sun. "As COVID-19 vaccine effort gears up, the shortage of nurses strains health care in Maryland." The Baltimore Sun. January 15, 2021. Available from: <https://www.baltimoresun.com/coronavirus/bs-md-nursing-shortage-baltimore-coronavirus-20210115-tjtqewctkzetpigvzspe7qgfq-story.html>

Baltimore Sun Media. "Howard County to move on to Phase 1B of COVID-19 vaccination plan on Jan. 25." The Baltimore Sun. January 15, 2021. Available from: <https://www.baltimoresun.com/maryland/howard/cng-ho-vaccine-phase-1b-20210115-75au2bbj5nc65o724buzv5ax7e-story.html>

Dacey, K. "COVID-19 vaccination oversight workgroup talks distribution in first meeting." WBAL TV. January 25, 2021. Available from: <https://www.wbalv.com/article/covid-19-vaccination-oversight-workgroup-maryland-first-meeting/35309011>

Mann, A and Stole, B. “Maryland works to open mass coronavirus vaccination sites, even as supply of shots remains frustratingly short.” The Baltimore Sun. January 26, 2021. Available from: <https://www.baltimoresun.com/coronavirus/bs-md-hogan-vaccine-update-20210126-v4ctsxerardxrouv7lw6pjjx64-story.html>

McGee, T. “Vaccine rollout in Kent to include additional clinics and nurses.” MyEasternShoreMD. January 6, 2021. Available from: https://www.myeasternshoremd.com/emergency_notice/vaccine-rollout-in-kent-to-include-additional-clinics-and-nurses/article_271fd2f4-413a-53ee-88ef-adbb390a2540.html

Melser, L. “Workgroup to look into rollout of COVID-19 vaccine in Maryland.” WBALTV11. January 19, 2021. Available from: <https://www.wbalTV.com/article/covid-19-vaccine-in-maryland-vaccination-oversite-workgroup-investigate-rollout/35254078#>

Miller, H and Wood, P. “Coronavirus vaccine eligibility opens to more candidates in Maryland amid access questions.” The Baltimore Sun. January 25, 2021. Available from: <https://www.baltimoresun.com/coronavirus/bs-md-maryland-phase-1c-vaccine-coronavirus-20210126-q7mystqyvci3fwk7mht7ixskm-story.html>

Sears, BP. “Hogan expands eligibility for COVID-19 vaccinations.” The Daily Record. January 5, 2021. Available from: <https://thedailyrecord.com/2021/01/05/social-workers-put-on-first-tier-as-hogan-to-give-update-on-md-s-vaccination-efforts/>

Whitlow, J. “Harford Health Department says it will have no problem administering first shipment of COVID—19 vaccines.” The Baltimore Sun. January 7, 2021. Available from: <https://www.baltimoresun.com/maryland/harford/aegis/cng-ag-vaccination-update-20210107-3zcgwgp2qjghvmisnx7zexqskm-story.html>

Telehealth

De La Rosa, S. “Telehealth key priority for MHCC through 2022.” State of Reform. January 7, 2021. Available from: <https://stateofreform.com/uncategorized/2021/01/telehealth-key-priority-for-mhcc-through-2022/>

Health Information Exchange

CBS Baltimore Staff. “New online referral portal lets Maryland physicians refer COVID patients for monoclonal antibody treatments.” CBS Baltimore. January 27, 2021. Available from: <https://baltimore.cbslocal.com/2021/01/27/new-online-referral-portal-lets-maryland-physicians-refer-covid-patients-for-monoclonal-antibody-treatments/>

2021 Legislative Session

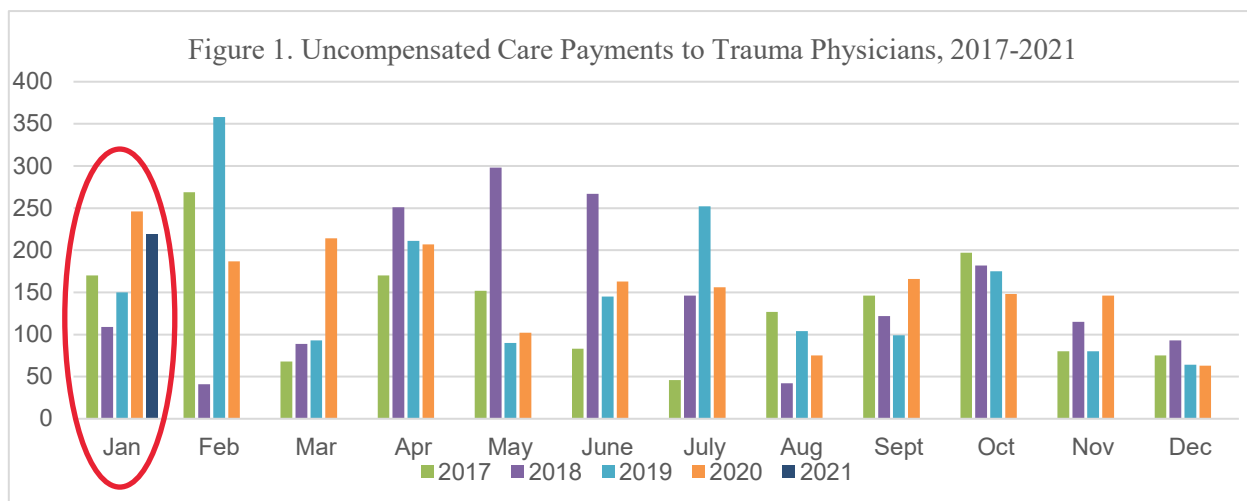
Wood, P and Stole, B. “Inequities exposed by coronavirus pandemic drive agenda for Maryland General Assembly.” The Baltimore Sun. January 9, 2021. Available from: <https://www.baltimoresun.com/politics/bs-md-pol-assembly-preview-20210109-goqqjgwo4zfl3krmpaods3c2xq-story.html>

Maryland Trauma Physician Services Fund – Richard Proctor

Uncompensated Care Processing

Trustmark Health Benefits, the third-party administrator (TPA) for the Trauma Fund, processed \$219,099.33 for uncompensated care claims through January 2021.

Staff has also begun to receive applications for the June through December 2020 On-Call cycle. These applications will be processed and submitted for reimbursement by the end of February.



Internet Utilization – Contributors: Valerie Wooding, Sametria McCammon, Julie Deppe, and Mahlet ‘Mahi’ Nigatu

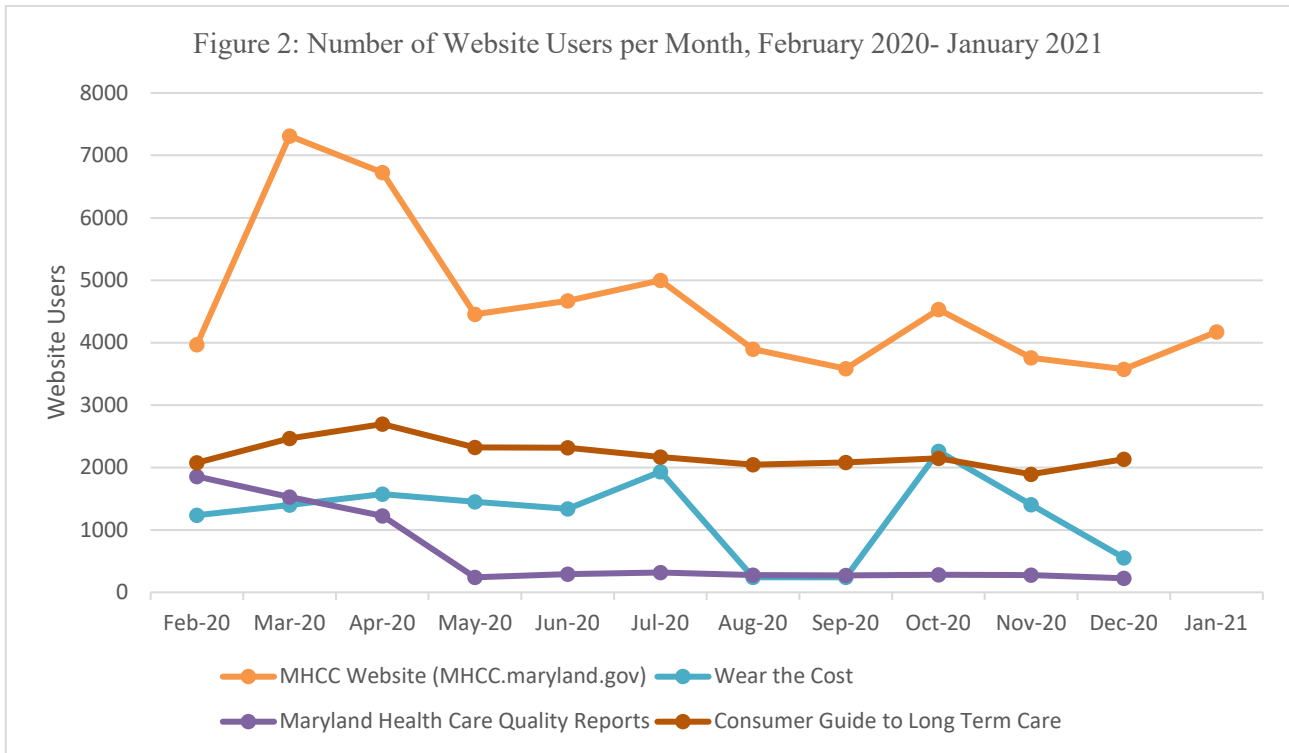


Figure 2 shows the number of website users over a 12-month period for each of the four websites maintained by Commission staff. Specific information about each website is below.

MHCC Website: The MHCC website (<https://MHCC.maryland.gov>) had 4174 users in January.

Wear The Cost: A total of 1917 users visited the site. This increase in traffic results from the programmatic campaign tailored based on the findings of three months of research of Maryland residents' health information seeking behavior. Staff expect to see even more traffic, reach, and overall engagement in the subsequent months.

Maryland Health Care Quality Reports: The Maryland Health Care Quality Reports website had 237 users in the month of January, a 5.3% increase from December 2020. The bounce rate decreased 10.5% indicating increased user interest in website content. The primary source of website traffic are direct links (87.9%).

Consumer Guide to Long Term Care: For the month of January, the Consumer Guide to Long Term Care had 2,475 users access the site, which indicates an increase of 16% in website traffic compared to December 2020. There was a significant increase of individual pages viewed (17,000), representing a 29% increase from December. The primary sources of traffic are from direct links (57%) and organic searches (37%).

“Users” approximates the number of individuals that visit a website but contains some duplication of unique individuals visiting each website. For example, individuals are counted as separate "users" of a site when they use different devices (such as a work computer, a home computer, and a tablet), different browsers (such as chrome, safari, etc.), or clear cookies on a browser. Staff continue to monitor a broader set of metrics as they manage website projects and marketing.

CENTER FOR ANALYSIS AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS

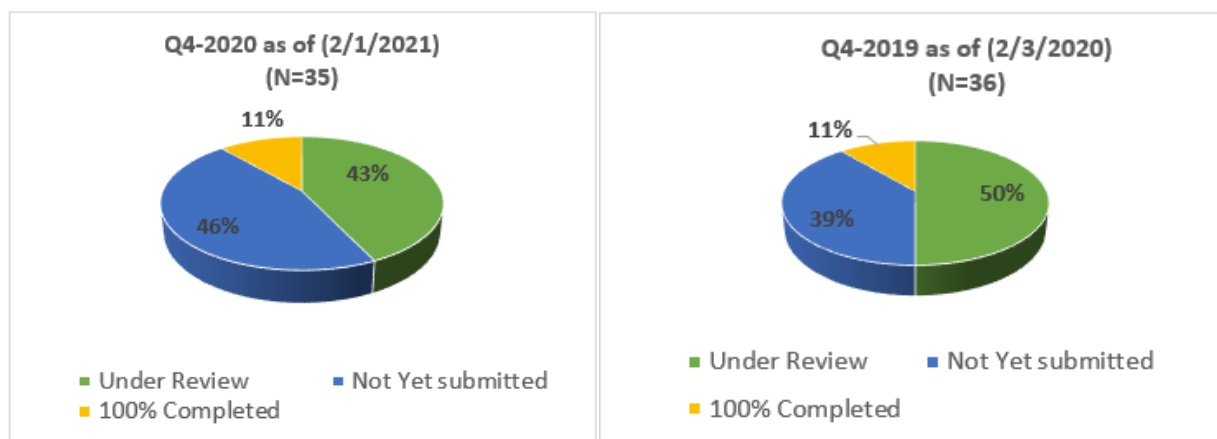
Cost and Quality Analysis– Shankar Mesta

MCDB Data Submission Status, Payor Compliance, and Technical Support

Four (11%) payors submitted complete clean Q4 2020 data as of end of January 2021.

Four of thirty-five payors (11%) for the Q4 2020 submission successfully passed the Tier 3 data quality validation checks. Fifteen (43%) of the data submissions are under review. Sixteen (46%) have not made a submission to the MCDB. This is comparable to data submission status during Q4 2019 as shown in the pie charts below.

MHCC staff have sent out the first reminder to payors who have not yet submitted data, to do so before the deadline of 02/28/2021. With weekly follow up reminders, we expect all the payors to submit clean Q4 2020 by the deadline. Approval of payor waiver requests is ongoing, concurrent with the review of submitted data.



APCD Public Reporting and Data Release – Mahlet ‘Mahi’ Nigatu

Wear The Cost

MHCC's Wear The Cost episode development contractor Signify Health has begun processing Commercial 2018/2019 data. This release will be the fourth cycle. Staff expects to add more episodes. The website traffic increased by 246% in the month of January.

MCDB Data Release

Draft Regulation COMAR 10.25.05

Staff held the third and final workgroup meetings to review the draft data release regulation COMAR 10.25.05. Staff and Commission AAGs are working on incorporating the feedback gathered from the workgroup members. Once the review is complete, the draft data regulation will be open for informal public comment. Once the public comment period is over and the necessary changes are made to the draft COMAR it will be presented to the Commission for adaption into a proposed regulation.

Special Projects – Janet Ennis

Project Management Consulting Services: PMO Contract Award

A Request for Proposal (RFP) was issued to continue the services of a Project Management Officer (PMO) to assist the Center and ensure all major projects remain on task and are completed timely. Seven proposals were received, and an Evaluation Committee was organized to conduct the review/selection process. The Evaluation Committee selected Freedman Healthcare, LLC for this new 2-year PMO contract. Center staff awaits official approval from the Board of Public Works in late March.

<i>CENTER FOR HEALTH CARE FACILITIES PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT</i>
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Acute Care Policy and Planning – Eileen Fleck

Certificates of Ongoing Performance

Staff continued work on reviewing applications for Certificates of Ongoing Performance for percutaneous coronary intervention services.

COMAR 10.24.07: State Health Plan Chapter for Acute Psychiatric Services

Staff reviewed the informal comments on the draft regulations and worked on further revising the draft regulations. Staff plans to present the revised draft regulations to the Commission in February for consideration as proposed permanent regulations.

Long Term Care Policy and Planning - Linda Cole

Minimum Data Set (MDS) and Long-Term Care Survey Contract

During the past month, MHCC staff reviewed and approved deliverables from Hilltop Institute at the University of Maryland Baltimore County, MHCC's contractor for work on MDS and long-term care survey data. MHCC and Hilltop are still awaiting the MDS data set for CY 2020 from the Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ), the health care facilities licensure division of the Maryland Department of Health. OHCQ is currently updating its data systems for processing MDS data. MHCC also reviewed and approved "Recommendations on the Changes in Medicare and Medicaid on Data Processing and Analysis."

In addition, data from the FY 2019 MHCC Long Term Care Survey was submitted to Hilltop for processing of routine tables. For this final year of the contract, MHCC staff are responsible for processing all the long term care data and providing it to Hilltop for creation of reports.

Health Care Facility Surveys

Follow up questions were sent to selected hospices to verify data in preparation for development of tables based on the FY 2019 Hospice Survey. Preparation is underway for initiation of the FY 2020 Maryland Hospice Survey.

Staff started the data cleaning and processing of the FY 2019 Home Health Agency Survey data. The initial data reports and the utilization tables have been created and staff is reviewing the data. Data will be updated where necessary based on data verification.

Staff completed the data cleaning and processing of the FY 2019 Long Term Care Survey data. The occupancy reports, routine reports and other data sets have been created. Staff is finalizing the documents for publication (bed occupancy and minimum Medicaid participation thresholds) in the *Maryland Register*. Staff expects to

make the final data reports by facility type, and the public use data available on the Commission website within the coming week. Staff shared the final data sets with Hilltop for production of other routine reports.

Certificate of Need (CON) – Kevin McDonald

Emergency CONs Approved (COVID-19 Response)

University of Maryland (UM) Prince George’s Hospital Center at UM Laurel Medical Center – (Prince George’s County) – Docket No. EM-H20-16-2039

Introduce acute psychiatric services at the Alternative Care Site in Laurel (the former UM Laurel Regional Hospital that is currently licensed as a freestanding medical facility) by creating a 10-bed acute psychiatric unit for adults with COVID-19.

Approved Project Cost: \$500,000

Atlantic General Hospital (Worcester County) – Docket No. EM-H21-23-040

Add 16 medical/surgical beds for low acuity patients in leased space at Berlin Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, a comprehensive care facility (CCF), which is adjacent to the hospital.

Approved Project Cost: \$35,000,

Johns Hopkins Surgery Center Series – (Baltimore County) – Docket No. EM-MISC20-03-001

Add one general purpose, mixed-use operating room at Green Spring Station Surgery Center in Lutherville.

Approved Project Cost: \$200,000

Adventist HealthCare White Oak Medical Center – (Montgomery County) – Docket No. EM-H21-15-041

Establish a 16-bed intensive care unit at the Alternate Care Site in Takoma Park (the former Washington Adventist Hospital).

Project Cost: \$100,000

Determinations of Coverage

• **Ambulatory Surgery Centers**

Lutherville Surgery Center d/b/a SurgCenter of Towson – (Baltimore County)

Addition of a second operating room at an existing physician outpatient surgery center (POSC) in Towson.

Columbia Parkway Surgery Center, LLC – (Howard County)

Establish a POSC with three non-sterile procedure rooms to be located at 8850 Columbia 100 Parkway, in Columbia.

Harford County Ambulatory Surgery Center – (Harford County)

Change in ownership of an existing POSC in Edgewood. The four individuals constituting current ownership will transfer ownership to four limited liability companies; BCDI (Bain Capital Double Impact) MSHC Investment, LLC (80.76%), MS-HC, LLC (19.06%), MDDE Medical, LLC (0.01%), and MDDE Chiropractic, LLC (0.01%). The owner of BCDI MSHC Investment, LLC is identified as BCDI Funds.

MedStar Medical Group – Southern Maryland, LLC – (Charles County)

Add insertion of loop recorders (for monitoring cardiac arrhythmia), changing generators for pacemakers, and pain management procedures as services offered at an existing POSC in Waldorf.

Capital Projects

Doctors Community Medical Center/Magnolia Gardens Nursing Home – Prince George’s County)

Renovations of the former Magnolia Gardens Nursing Home on the grounds of Doctors Community Medical Center to accommodate a new outpatient mental health and substance use treatment program. The program

will serve adults and adolescents, and will include ambulatory services, intensive outpatient services, and supportive outpatient programs.

Estimated Cost: \$12 to \$15 million

Licensure

- **Delicensure of Bed Capacity or a Health Care Facility**

Berlin Nursing & Rehabilitation Center – (Worcester County)

Temporary delicensure of eight beds at this CCF. (See approved emergency CONs listed above.)

Notices of Health Care Facility Acquisitions/Changes of Ownership Under Review February 12, 2021

Maple Lawn Surgery Center, LLC

7625 Maple Lawn Boulevard, Maple Lawn (Howard)

SurgCenter of Silver Spring

8719 Cameron Street, Suite 199, Silver Spring (Montgomery)

CENTER FOR HEALTH INFORMATION & INNOVATIVE CARE DELIVERY

Health Information Technology Division – Nikki Majewski, Division Chief

Telehealth

Virtual Resource Center

Development is underway on several flyers aimed at helping practices implement workflows that support virtual and in-person care delivery. Flyers focus on workflow redesign to support a blended practice model, optimizing the use of health information technology (health IT) in care delivery, and enhancing the virtual experience for patients with communication and language barriers. Planning is progressing on developing resource material to raise awareness about telehealth among the aging population.

Policy Workgroup

The Telehealth Policy Workgroup (workgroup) convened to discuss the permanency of select telehealth policies after the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE) ends. The workgroup identified benefits, unintended consequences, and permanency concerns for six key policies. General findings emerged from the workgroup's analysis of over 300 observations. A report on the findings is targeted for release in February.

School Nurse Webinar

Promotional activities are underway for the webinar, *Virtual Services Provided by School Nurses: Leveraging Technology to Meet Student Needs During COVID-19 and Beyond*, that was recorded in December. The webinar features two presentations from school nurses who are using telehealth to engage students and their parents during the PHE. The webinar highlights how telehealth is increasingly helping school nurses meet students' physical and mental health needs in a remote learning environment.

Hospital Health Information Technology Assessment

Approximately 36 acute care hospitals have completed the online 2020 hospital health IT survey. Staff continues to work with the five remaining hospitals to complete the survey. A review of the data was initiated; Staff is contacting select hospitals where questions exist. The hospital health IT survey is conducted annually and assesses adoption and use of electronic health records, health information exchange, telehealth, social

determinants of health technology, and cybersecurity controls. An information brief is targeted for release in the spring.

Breaches

Staff obtained fourth quarter 2020 breach data from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights for breaches affecting at least 500 individuals. An analysis of the data centers on Maryland in comparison to the nation as it relates to breach occurrences, estimated records compromised, breach type, and entity type. A spotlight highlighting breach trends is targeted for release in February.

Electronic Data Interchange

Planning is underway to identify strategies for payers and providers to transition from manual and partially electronic claims processing to full electronic processing. Several private payers have expressed interest in collaborating with Staff on initiatives aimed at maximizing electronic data interchange (EDI). An analysis of payer EDI data is in progress to identify estimated medical and dental spending and savings for the largest private payers.

Innovative Care Delivery Division – Melanie Cavaliere, Division Chief

Telehealth

Diffusing Telehealth in Ambulatory Practices

State-Designated Management Service Organizations (MSOs) continue to assist practices in adopting telehealth. Last April, MHCC awarded three MSOs a grant to provide technical support to practices interested in adopting telehealth and lacking the resources to implement the technology. Around 190 practices have expressed interest in working with an MSO, 93 have implemented telehealth, and 64 have used the technology in care delivery.

Dental Health IT

Data collection for the 2020 dental health IT adoption environmental scan concluded. The scan gathers information from nearly 200 dentists on the use of electronic health records, health information exchange, and telehealth. Findings are used to inform the development of strategies aimed at increasing health IT adoption and use among dentists. An information brief is targeted for release in the spring.

Advanced Care Delivery

Planning is underway on a Practice Transformation program (program) aimed at helping primary care and specialist practices implement select care transformation requirements related to care delivery, care coordination, support for care transitions, and use of health IT. Staff plans to issue a grant to one or more organizations that can assist select practices in meeting specific practice transformation goals. The program will include milestones for regular, measurable progress toward the necessary practice capabilities.

Maryland Primary Care Program Advisory Council

Review of the Track 3 policy framework (framework) is underway by the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation (CMMI). The Maryland Primary Care Program (MDPCP) Program Management Office (PMO) anticipates CMMI feedback during the first quarter. The MDPCP Advisory Council developed a framework that closely aligns with the federal Primary Care First program at the request of CMMI. The Advisory Council expects to provide the PMO with recommendations on Track 3 program elements during 2021.

Privacy and Security Regulations

Post & Schell, P.C. (contractor) has initiated a review of the *21st Century Cures Act: Interoperability, Information Blocking, and the ONC Health IT Certification (CA) program final rule*. The contractor is reviewing the CA final rule to identify select elements that will inform recommendations to modernize COMAR 10.25.18.03, *Health Information Exchanges: Privacy and Security of Protected Health Information* (regulations). The contractor was selected in July of last year to propose changes to update and align the regulations with existing federal HIE policies.

Care Management

Development is progressing on a Care Management Program Development Guide (guide). The guide includes a self-assessment to help practices determine their readiness to engage in care management, define a care manager's role in a practice, and identify leading care manager responsibilities. The guide includes over 60 educational resources to help practices implement care management and adopt best practices to enhance an existing care management program.

Patient and Family Advisory Council Guide for Ambulatory Practices

Staff is assessing the feedback from several Patient and Family Advisory Council (PFAC) focus group meetings to enhance the *PFAC Guide for Ambulatory Practices* (guide). Additions to the guide include the identification of best practices based on changes due to the PHE. PFACs consist of patients and caregivers who meet regularly with clinical staff to help improve practice operations and the patient experience. The addendum is targeted for release in the summer.

CENTER FOR QUALITY MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

The Maryland Health Care Quality Reports (MHCQR) website

MHCQR Website Redesign

Staff continue to work with Advanta Government Services (AGS), the website contractor, to redesign the website's functionality, usability, and overall appeal. The first phase of the redesign effort focused on the full integration of our Long Term Care Guide and our Quick Compare features into a more uniform and comprehensive *Quality Reports* consumer site. The website is in the final stages of development and will be checked for quality control in mid-February; launch of the site is still on track for March 2021.

MHCQR website sees steady website traffic

Staff continues to monitor traffic to the site using Google Analytics software. Web traffic in January 2021 was slightly higher than web traffic in December 2020. The most frequently viewed pages on the MHCQR site include hospital quality ratings and the nursing home search feature. Traffic to the site is presented graphically under the Executive Direction section of this update.

Website Promotion: Approximately 70 social media posts initiated in January

Promotion of the MHCQR website is a Center priority. There were approximately 70 social media posts made in January. Topics included Cervical Cancer Awareness Month, information about influenza, and general marketing posts for the MHCQR. 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 MHCQR website.

The staff met with representatives from Maryland Public Television (MPT) to discuss options for increasing public awareness of the MHCQR website. The MHCC procurement officer is working to facilitate an interagency agreement with MPT to support marketing and promotion of the website in early 2021.

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 MHCQR consumer website. MHCC postponed public reporting for 2019 & 2020 data in light of the pandemic. Staff are working with the industry to develop an appropriate timeline to begin reporting this data again.

Specialized Cardiac Services Data

All Maryland hospitals that provide PCI services are required to participate in the ACC NCDR CathPCI data registries and report quarterly data and detailed reports to the Commission in accordance with established timelines. Data collection for 2020Q3 CathPCI is complete and outcomes report collection is now underway. The cardiac data coordinators meet quarterly, and the next meeting is scheduled for February 9, 2021.

Long Term Care Quality Initiative—Stacy Howes

Center and Inter-Agency Projects

The Center for Health Care Facilities Planning and Development staff create hospice usage tables based on the Hospice Survey. These tables depict the general usage rates, racial composition of hospice patients, most common ailments of hospice patients, non-death discharge rates, and rates of usage by region of Maryland. Tables are shared with the hospice industry and posted on the MHCC website. Tables for FY2019 are in the process of being created and will be complete once the 2019 Vital Statics Report is published.

Staff are working with Center to analyze the effects of nursing home acquisition on quality. Staff will examine the quality reports of nursing homes before and after acquisition to determine if quality is stable, decreases, or increases, and the results will be compared to the quality of nursing homes that did not change ownership during the same time period.

Nursing Home Family Experience of Care Survey

The data collection period for 2020 is close to conclusion. Data collection has been extended for a longer period compared to previous years because the project encountered multiple problems with mail delivery from August 2020 through January 2021. As a result of this extended data collection, we have achieved a response rate of 39% so far, which is comparable to last year's response rate. Data collection will end within the next few weeks, and data analysis will begin. Nursing homes should receive their reports in March or April. Nursing homes received a link to the proposed regulation **COMAR 10.09.10.15 Pay-for-Performance — Quality Measures** that was published in the Maryland Register on January 29, 2021. One of the proposed changes to this regulation is decreasing the weight of the Nursing Home Family Experience of Care Survey from 40% to 30%.

Health Plan Quality Initiative

Staff kicked off the 2021 rate year in December of 2020. Health plans have begun collecting data, and data collection will continue through the end of the summer. Behavioral health data are due in April.

Consumer Guide to Long Term Care

Data updates to the Consumer Guide have been suspended during the integration to the redesigned Quality Reports website. Staff continue to provide information and resources directly to consumers who contact the office with questions about long term care facilities and services.

Nursing Home and Assisted Living Influenza Vaccination Survey

Nursing homes and assisted living facilities received reminder emails to continue offering vaccination to new staff and to retain documentation of employee vaccination for the survey in April. Nursing homes received a link to the proposed regulation **COMAR 10.09.10.15 Pay-for-Performance — Quality Measures** that was published in the Maryland Register on January 29, 2021. One of the proposed changes to this regulation is raising the weight of the Staff Influenza Vaccination score from 2% to 5% of the composite score. Another

proposed change is to raise the benchmark for employee influenza vaccination from 80% to 90%, and awarding a value of 0, 2, or 5 points. Nursing facilities that do not meet the benchmark of 90% will receive 0 points. Nursing facilities that meet or exceed the benchmark of 90% but less than 95% will receive 2 points, and facilities that meet or exceed the benchmark of 95% or greater shall receive 5 points. The value of the Family Satisfaction Survey is proposed to decrease from 40% to 30% of the composite score.

Outpatient Quality Initiative—Mariama Gondo

Administering CY 2019 Ambulatory Surgical Facility (FASF) Annual Survey

The CY2019 survey opened on November 16, 2020. The survey officially closed on January 29, 2021 and staff is working on the review of results and reaching out to ASFs to facilitate accurate and complete reporting. Staff surveyed 323 ASFs for the 2019 reporting period.