



California Health Care Foundation  
HEALTH CARE THAT WORKS FOR ALL CALIFORNIANS

# SB1004 Technical Assistance Series: Topic 4: Gauging and Promoting Sustainability and Success

April 2018

Kathleen Kerr, BA  
Kerr Healthcare Analytics

Anne Kinderman, MD  
Director, Supportive & Palliative Care Service  
Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital  
Associate Clinical Professor of Medicine,  
UCSF

# Building blocks for implementing community-based palliative care

Estimating member/patient need

Estimating costs for delivering services

Assessing capacity for palliative care & launching svcs

Gauging and promoting sustainability and success

Lessons learned and adjusting programs

# Objectives

- Review information from DHCS regarding initial program reporting requirements
- Describe resources available to measure palliative care quality
- Outline process steps to select quality metrics based on local needs, resources and challenges
- Create processes for routine program review and quality assessment
- Outline factors that promote sustainability and scaling of services

# Outline

- Review SB 1004 reporting requirements
- Measuring quality in palliative care
- Selecting metrics for your program
- Recommendations for promoting program sustainability
- Review

# SB 1004 Reporting Requirements

- Final template released February 2018
- Quarterly reporting
- Reporting domains
  - Patient level: name, diagnosis, approval date, disenrollment date, reason for disenrollment
  - Referrals: number made, approved, accepted, declined, denied and if denied why
  - Network: provider name, type (mix of disciplines and services), specialty, telehealth use

Focus: Who was referred, who was served, why/why not served, how long served, by whom

# Components of quality

Providing services based on scientific knowledge to all who could benefit and refraining from providing services to those not likely to benefit

Effective

Avoiding waste, including waste of equipment, supplies, ideas, and energy.

Efficient

Providing care that does not vary in quality because of personal characteristics such as gender, ethnicity, geographic location, and socioeconomic status

Equitable

Avoiding harm to patients from the care that is intended to help them.

Safe

Quality Care

Providing care that is respectful of and responsive to individual patient preferences, needs, and values and ensuring that patient values guide all clinical decisions.

Patient-Centered

Reducing waits and sometimes harmful delays for both those who receive and those who give care.

Timely

# Much more you will want to know

## Metrics that describe:

- What was done, by whom, how often
- Adherence to best practices
- How things turned out

## Where to find metrics?

- Case studies / peers
- QI collaboratives
- Endorsed by the field

# CHCF Payer-Provider Partnerships Initiative

- 6 teams of payer and provider organizations
- Providers: large academic medical centers, hospices, and a specialty palliative care practice
- Payers: national insurers, regional insurers, a Medicaid managed care plan
- 6 month planning process, resulting in operational and financial plans for delivering CBPC
- 24 month implementation phase, where contracts were executed and clinical services were delivered

To learn more about the PPI project: <https://www.chcf.org/project/payer-provider-partnerships-to-expand-community-based-palliative-care/>



# (Selected) Metrics used by PPI participants

## Operational

- # Patients referred, % with scheduled visits, % visited
- # Visits (average and range) per patient in enrollment period
- # Days (average and range) from referral to initial visit
- # Days (average and range) between visits
- % seen within 14 days of referral
- Referral source
- Referral reason
- Use of tele-visits

# Metrics used by PPI teams

## Screening and assessments

- % for which spiritual assessment is completed
- % for which functional assessment is completed
- Symptom Burden by ESAS (repeated)
- Patient distress by Distress Thermometer (repeated)
- % for which medication reconciliation is done with 72h of hospital discharge

## Planning and preferences

- % with advance care planning discussed
- % with advance directive or POLST completed

# Metrics used by PPI teams

## Hospice and End of Life Care

- % remaining on service through end of life
- % death within one year of enrollment
- % enrolled in hospice at the time of death
- Average/median hospice length of service
- Location of death
- % dying in preferred location

# Metrics used by PPI teams

## Utilization and fiscal

- PMPM cost of care, enrolled patients vs comparison population
- Health care utilization/costs 6 months prior to enrollment compared to 6 months during/after:
  - # Acute care admissions
  - # (Total) hospital days
  - # ICU admissions
  - # ICU days
  - # ER visits
  - Cost per member (total)
  - Cost per member (inpatient)
  - Cost per member (outpatient)

# Palliative Care Quality Network

National learning collaborative committed to improving the care of seriously ill patients and their families

---



Patient- level data registry with real-time, easy to access reports that allow for benchmarking across member sites.



Quality improvement activities including mentored multi-site QI projects, QI education, and case reviews.



Education & community building opportunities including monthly educational webinars and in-person conferences.

---

Learn More: <https://pcqn.org> • Angela Marks [angela.marks@ucsf.edu](mailto:angela.marks@ucsf.edu)

# Encounter level data collection

PCQN ID: 36    MRN:     Last Name:     First Name:      Mark as complete   

Visit dates:      29:04

**Visit Preliminaries**

Process, Outcomes, Services

Symptoms

Optional

Visit Date    Never scheduled    Initial Visit  Yes  No    Patient Type  Clinic  Home  SNF/Nursing Home    Tele-Visit  No (In-person)  Yes

Age   Age Unknown    Gender  Male  Female  Unknown

**Referral Source**

Inpatient PC     Emergency Dept.     Outpatient PC     Self     Unknown  
 Other Inpatient Team     Primary Care     Other Outpatient Specialist     Other, description:

**Referral Reason (check all that apply)**

Goals of care / ACP     Pain management     Other symptom management     Support for patient/family  
 Support with treatment decisions     Transfer to comfort care bed / unit     Comfort care  
 Hospice referral/discussion     No reason given     Other:

**Primary Diagnosis**

Cancer (Solid tumor)     Vascular     Congenital / Chromosomal     Infectious / Immunological / HIV     Neurologic / Stroke / Neurodegenerative  
 Hematology     Complex chronic conditions / Failure to thrive     Gastrointestinal     In-utero complication / condition     Dementia  
 Cardiovascular     Renal     Hepatic     Unknown  
 Pulmonary     Trauma  
 Other:

**Advance Directive on Chart/Available**

Yes  No  Unknown

**POLST on Chart/Available**

Yes  No  Unknown

**No-Show for Scheduled Appointment**    If available, indicate reason:

*If this box is checked, the Process/Outcomes/Services and Symptoms tab are removed.*

# Metrics for assessment and benchmarking

Data Element	Current metrics available for benchmarking
<b>Patient Characteristics / Info at time of PC request</b>	
Age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mean age</li> <li>• Percent of patients in the following age bands:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 20 or under</li> <li>○ 21-40</li> <li>○ 41-60</li> <li>○ 61-80</li> <li>○ Over 80</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Gender	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• M/F (%)</li> </ul>
Referral source	Percent of patients referred from the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inpatient PC</li> <li>• Other Inpatient Team</li> <li>• Emergency Dept.</li> <li>• Primary Care</li> <li>• Outpatient PC</li> <li>• Other Outpatient Specialist</li> <li>• Self</li> <li>• Unknown</li> <li>• Other</li> </ul>

SEE HANDOUT

# PC metrics endorsed by NQF



NATIONAL  
QUALITY FORUM



About Us

News

NQF Work ▾

## Measures, Reports & Tools

### Find Measures

- [NQF-Endorsed Measures \(QPS\)](#)

### Find Reports

- [Final Reports](#)
- [Measure Endorsement Summaries](#)
- [Report to Congress](#)

### Find Tools

- [Graphics Library](#)
- [Align Your Measures](#)
- [Health IT Knowledge Base](#)
- [My Dashboard](#)
- [Action Registry](#)
- [Field Guide](#)

NQF has what your organization needs to better measure, report on, and take action to improve healthcare quality.

### Measures



Looking for measures? Check out [QPS](#), NQF's measure search tool that helps you find the endorsed measures you need quickly and easily. Search by measure title or number, as well as by condition, care setting, or measure steward. Use QPS to learn from other measure users about how they select and use measures in their quality improvement programs.

### Reports

NQF reports cover a range of topics critical to healthcare quality improvement. Explore our [Reports Directory](#) to access reports regarding measure endorsement, measure use, and establishing national healthcare priorities.

[Endorsement Summaries](#) are designed to give you basic details on newly endorsed measures, where measures can be used, and what gaps they fill.

### Tools

NQF offers a range of tools designed to help you achieve your goals and work with others:

- The [NQF Graphics Library](#) is a collection of downloadable graphics that can be used in your work.
- Our [Alignment Tool](#) helps you align, expand, or start your measurement and reporting efforts in ways that fit with key national programs.
- The [Health IT Knowledge Base](#) provides answers to some of the most technical questions surrounding NQF's health IT and eMeasures initiatives.
- [My Dashboard](#) helps you track what is happening at NQF, and lets you personalize your experience on the web.
- NQF's [Action Registry](#) is an online collaboration space designed to help people on the frontlines of making care



# Use NQF's QPS to find endorsed metrics

NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM

About Us News NQF Work ▾ Search

palliative care

Search as Phrase

Measures (3) Portfolios Compare □□□ Add to Compare Add to Portfolio Export Save Search as Portfolio ? Results Per Page: 25 ▾

Narrow Your Search

Measure Type:

- Process: Appropriate Use
- Composite
- Cost/Resource Use
- Efficiency
- Outcome
- Outcome: PRO-PM
- Process
- Structure
- Outcome: Intermediate Clinical Outcome

Clear All

<input type="checkbox"/>	NQF#	Title	Steward	Updated	Status
<input type="checkbox"/>	0216	<a href="#">Proportion of patients who died from cancer admitted to hospice for less than 3 days</a>	American Society of Clinical Oncology	Oct 25, 2016	ENDORSED
<input type="checkbox"/>	0213	<a href="#">Proportion of patients who died from cancer admitted to the ICU in the last 30 days of life</a>	American Society of Clinical Oncology	Oct 25, 2016	ENDORSED
<input type="checkbox"/>	0211	<a href="#">Proportion with more than one emergency room visit in the last days of life</a>	American Society of Clinical Oncology	Oct 17, 2016	

### Meetings

- Annual Assembly
- Board Review Course
- Pediatrics Course
- Webinars
- Calendar

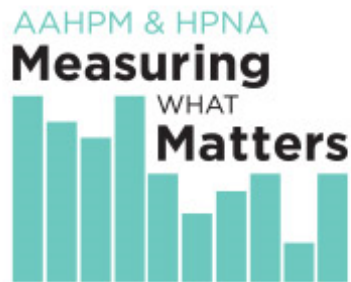
### Publications

- JPSM
- PC-FACS
- Quarterly
- SmartBriefs

### Self-Study

- Board Prep Materials
- Essentials
- Primer
- HPM PASS
- HPM FAST
- Hospice Products
- Opioid REMS

## Measuring What Matters



Measuring What Matters (MWM) is a consensus recommendation for a portfolio of performance measures for all hospice and palliative care programs to use for program improvement.

The Measuring What Matters team identified existing indicators that were then rated by multiple panels to ultimately determine the **Top 10 Measures That Matter**. Read more about the findings and recommendations of the consensus project in the [Journal of Pain and Symptom Management](#).

Read the [Actual Measures List](#) or [Measure Concepts List](#).

Access the [New Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#) list about MWM

Access the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#) list about MWM.

Access the [Top Twelve Measures](#)—Background Information, Evidence and Clinical User Panel (CUP) Comments

## Project Overview

Read about the history of the project and the organizations involved.



# TOP TEN MEASURES THAT MATTER

## **MEASURE 1: Hospice and Palliative Care—Comprehensive Assessment**

Percentage of patients for whom a comprehensive assessment was completed

Source: PEACE Set<sup>1,2</sup> | <http://www.med.unc.edu/pcare/resources/PEACE-Quality-Measures>

## **MEASURE 2: Screening for Physical Symptoms**

Percentage of seriously ill patients receiving specialty palliative care in an acute hospital setting >1 day or patients enrolled in hospice >7 days who had a screening for physical symptoms (pain, dyspnea, nausea, and constipation)

Source: PEACE Set<sup>1,2</sup> | <http://www.med.unc.edu/pcare/resources/PEACE-Quality-Measures>

## **MEASURE 3: Pain Treatment (ANY)**

Seriously ill patients receiving specialty palliative care in an acute hospital setting >1 day or patients enrolled in hospice >7 days who screened positive for moderate to severe pain on admission, and the percent receiving medication or nonmedication treatment, within 24 hours of screening

Source: PEACE Set<sup>1,2</sup> | <http://www.med.unc.edu/pcare/resources/PEACE-Quality-Measures>



PUBLICATION

# Palliative Care Measure Menu

FEBRUARY 5, 2016

By Kathleen Kerr, Brian Cassel, Lewis Broome

SHARE    

Measuring quality in palliative care (PC) is important, but can be challenging. Because PC has a broad and far-reaching scope, there are literally hundreds of metrics that might be used to assess quality. Some metrics require data that are difficult or impossible for a given program or organization to obtain. Not all metrics are appropriate for every type of service or every patient population.

Designed for palliative care leaders, quality professionals, and administrators, the Palliative Care Measure Menu simplifies the task of reviewing possible measures, enabling users to quickly and efficiently select a feasible, balanced portfolio of measures that mirror the scope and focus of a given PC program.

To begin, download and review the Brief Tutorial and the Instructions documents.

# What's inside

- 299 metrics from 19 sources
- Information about each metric:
  - Required data
  - Metric type (structure, process, outcome)
  - National Consensus Project (NCP) guideline it addresses
  - Who developed it
  - Settings used/tested in
  - Important endorsements

You can use the tool to select for the types of metrics that are appropriate for your setting and service, and to exclude from consideration metrics that are unimportant (to you) or not feasible.

# Filter view

## THE PALLIATIVE CARE MEASURE MENU

Community-based PC Service

Population of Patients

Inpatient PC Service

Hospital or Hospital Unit

Resources ▾

### FILTERS

**Step 1:** Select the types of data that are or could be available for tracking metrics

Date of Death ⓘ

Use of Hospital or Emergency Room ⓘ

Care delivered in outpatient settings ⓘ

Chart data describing care processes or clinical findings ⓘ

Use of Hospice ⓘ

Survey Responses ⓘ

**Step 2:** Metric Focus and Type: Use these variables to specify the focus and types of metrics that you want to consider

Metric Focus ⓘ

Nothing selected ▾

Metric Type ⓘ

Nothing selected ▾

**Step 3:** Endorsements and Sources: Use these items to limit your search to metrics that have National Quality Forum endorsement, are Measuring What Matters recommended, or those from specific sources.

NQF Endorsement ⓘ

Nothing selected ▾

MWM Recommended ⓘ

Nothing selected ▾

Metric Source ⓘ

Nothing selected ▾

Show Results

Reset

180 METRICS FOUND

← This number will change as filters are applied

My Metrics 0

# Results view

Community-based PC Service

Population of Patients

Inpatient PC Service

Hospital or Hospital Unit

Resources ▾

## FILTERS

Show Filters

## 32 METRICS FOUND

My Metrics 0

Metrics that meet the criteria specified in the Filters section.

Learn more about the NCP guideline reference for a metric by going to the NCP Guidelines section of the **Resources** tab

Domain	Metric Type	Source	Original Population	NCP Ref		Add
Social	Process	NQF PP	PC patients	NCP 4.2	Proportion of patients/families who were invited to participate in a care conference with the interdisciplinary team	Add +
Social	Process	NQF PP	PC patients	NCP 4.2	Proportion of patients for whom a comprehensive social care plan is developed (comprehensive social care plan addressed relationships, communication, existing social and cultural networks, decision-making, work and school settings, finances, sexuality/intimacy, caregiver availability/stress and access to medicines and equipment.)	Add +
Spiritual	Structure	NQF PP	PC patients	NCP 5.1	Specialized palliative and hospice care teams should include spiritual care professionals appropriately trained and certified in palliative care.	Add +
Spiritual	Structure	NQF PP	PC patients	NCP 5.2	Presence of a policy or procedure requiring assessment of religious, spiritual and existential concerns using a structured instrument	Add +
Spiritual	Structure	NCP	PC patients	NCP 5.3	Palliative care programs create procedures to facilitate patients' access to clergy, religious, spiritual and culturally-based leaders, and/or healers in their own religious, spiritual, or cultural traditions.	Add +
Spiritual	Structure	NCP	PC patients	NCP 5.3	Non-chaplain palliative care providers obtain training in basic spiritual screening and spiritual care skills	Add +
Spiritual	Structure	NQF PP	PC patients	NCP 5.3	Spiritual care is available through organizational spiritual counseling or through the patient's own clergy relationships	Add +

# Results view

Community-based PC Service

Population of Patients

Inpatient PC Service

Hospital or Hospital Unit

Resources ▾

## FILTERS

Show Filters

32 METRICS FOUND

Use the "Add" buttons to save metrics to your My Metrics cart

My Metrics 0

Metrics that meet the criteria specified in the Filters section.

Domain	Metric Type	Source	Original Population	NCP Ref	Metric or Quality Indicator	Add
Social	Process	NQF PP	PC patients	NCP 4.2	Proportion of patients/families who were invited to participate in a care conference with the interdisciplinary team	Add
Social	Process	NQF PP	PC patients	NCP 4.2	Proportion of patients for whom a comprehensive social care plan is developed (comprehensive social care plan addressed relationships, communication, existing social and cultural networks, decision-making, work and school settings, finances, sexuality/intimacy, caregiver availability/stress and access to medicines and equipment.)	Add
Spiritual	Structure	NQF PP	PC patients	NCP 5.1	Specialized palliative and hospice care teams should include spiritual care professionals appropriately trained and certified in palliative care.	Add
Spiritual	Structure	NQF PP	PC patients	NCP 5.2	Presence of a policy or procedure requiring assessment of religious, spiritual and existential concerns using a structured instrument	Add
Spiritual	Structure	NCP	PC patients	NCP 5.3	Palliative care programs create procedures to facilitate patients' access to clergy, religious, spiritual and culturally-based leaders, and/or healers in their own religious, spiritual, or cultural traditions.	Add
Spiritual	Structure	NCP	PC patients	NCP 5.3	Non-chaplain palliative care providers obtain training in basic spiritual screening and spiritual care skills	Add
Spiritual	Structure	NQF PP	PC patients	NCP 5.3	Spiritual care is available through organizational spiritual counseling or through the patient's own clergy relationships	Add



# My Metrics

Community-based PC Service

Population of Patients

Inpatient PC Service

Hospital or Hospital Unit

Resources ▾

FILTERS

180 METRICS FOUND

Click on the "My Metrics" button to preview and edit the contents of your cart

Show Filters

My Metrics 4

My Metrics

Domain	Metric Type	Source	Original Population	NCP Ref	Metric or Quality Indicator	Remove
Psychological / Psychiatric	Structure	NCP	PC patients	NCP 3.1	The IDT includes professionals with skills and training in the potential psychological and psychiatric impact of serious or life threatening illness, on both the patient and family including depression, anxiety, delirium, and cognitive impairment	Remove
Psychological / Psychiatric	Structure	PEACE	PC patients	NCP 3.1	Policy or procedure mandating use of standard questions to assess patient depression	Remove
Spiritual	Structure	NQF PP	PC patients	NCP 5.2	Presence of a policy or procedure requiring assessment of religious, spiritual and existential concerns using a structured instrument	Remove
Spiritual	Structure	NQF PP	PC patients	NCP 5.3	The organization/program has established partnerships with community clergy	Remove
Spiritual	Process	PEACE	PC patients	NCP 5.2	% patients with chart documentation of a discussion of	Remove

Export

Close

Export your My Metrics cart contents

# Export a Spreadsheet File

A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Metric ID	Domain	Metric Type	Metric or Quality Indicator	Source	Original Population	NQF Data
173	Psychological / Psychiatric	Structure	The IDT includes professionals with skills and training in the potential psychological and psychiatric impact of serious or life threatening illness, on both the patient and family including depression, anxiety, delirium, and cognitive impairment	NCP	PC patients	
255	Psychological / Psychiatric	Structure	Policy or procedure mandating use of standard questions to assess patient depression	PEACE	PC patients	
218	Spiritual	Structure	Presence of a policy or procedure requiring assessment of religious, spiritual and existential concerns using a structured instrument	NQF PP	PC patients	
221	Spiritual	Structure	The organization/program has established partnerships with community clergy	NQF PP	PC patients	
260	Spiritual	Process	% patients with chart documentation of a discussion of spiritual or religious concerns	PEACE	PC patients	1647 (adapted)
166	Ethical/Legal	Process	% heart failure patients who have documentation in the medical record that an advance directive was executed.	Joint Commission	Individuals with heart failure	
262	Ethical/Legal	Process	% patients with chart documentation of an advanced directive or discussion that there is no advanced directive	PEACE	PC patients	

# Outline

- Review draft SB 1004 reporting requirements
- Measuring quality in palliative care
- Selecting metrics for your program
- Recommendations for promoting program sustainability
- Review

# Selecting Quality Metrics: Factors to Consider

- Whenever possible, start with metrics recognized by external entities and/or used by other programs
- 

From that long list, make selections by considering:

- What matters to stakeholders
- Feasibility of data collection & analysis
- Balanced portfolio

# Selecting Quality Metrics: What Matters to Stakeholders

## 1. Who are your stakeholders?

- Whose support is needed for success, sustainability, scaling?
- Whose initiatives/programs might be impacted (or threatened)?
- Who might have expectations about what the program will deliver?

# Selecting Quality Metrics: What Matters to Stakeholders

## 1. Who are your stakeholders?

- Internal
  - Organizational leadership
  - Clinically-oriented
  - Financially-oriented
  - Regulatory
- External
  - Payer/provider partner
  - Referring providers
  - Community partners
  - DHCS

# Selecting Quality Metrics: What Matters to Stakeholders

## 2. Initial questions to ask

- What would a successful palliative care program look like?
- What are you hoping the program will achieve?
- If you only had one measurement of program quality, what would it be?
- How might the palliative care program impact (or be impacted by) other programs?

# Selecting Quality Metrics: Assess Availability and Feasibility

For each metric you're considering...

- Is it already being collected, reported?
- Where would you get the data?
  - Available in EHR
    - What would it take to generate routine reports?
  - Could be collected specifically for this purpose
    - How labor-intensive might that collection process be?
    - Who would need to be involved? How much bandwidth do those stakeholders have to take on new tasks?



# Selecting Quality Metrics: Assess Availability and Feasibility

For each metric you're considering...

- Would the data be consistently available?
- How reliable would the data be?
- Where/how would you record the data?
- What would the analysis process require?

# Preparing for Metrics Selection

With stakeholders from your organization and/or partner organization, complete:  
Metrics Preparation Worksheet

# Selecting Quality Metrics: Factors to Consider

- ✓ Recognition of metric by external entities, use by other programs
- 

- ✓ What matters to stakeholders
- ✓ Feasibility of data collection & analysis
- Balanced portfolio

# Selecting Quality Metrics: Aim for a balanced portfolio

Aim for a diverse portfolio of palliative care program metrics, with balance across:

- Different types of metrics
  - Structure
  - Process
  - Outcome
- Different focus areas
- Effort required

# Selecting Quality Metrics: Aim for a Balanced Portfolio

## Different types of metrics

### Structure

- Describe the program
- Ex. Available 24/7

### Process

- Describe how care is delivered
- Ex. Screenings done at specific points in time

### Outcome

- Describe the impact of the program
- Ex. Change in pain scores

# Selecting Quality Metrics: Aim for a Balanced Portfolio

## Different focus areas

Operational

Screening &  
Assessments

Planning &  
Preferences

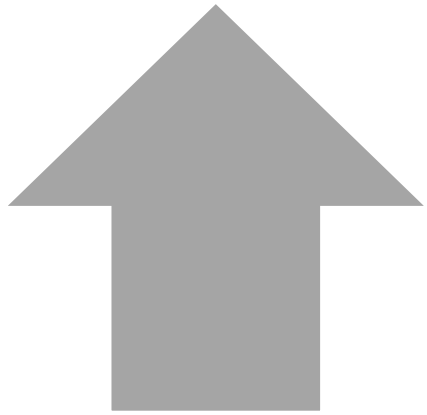
Hospice &  
End-of-Life  
Care

Utilization &  
Fiscal

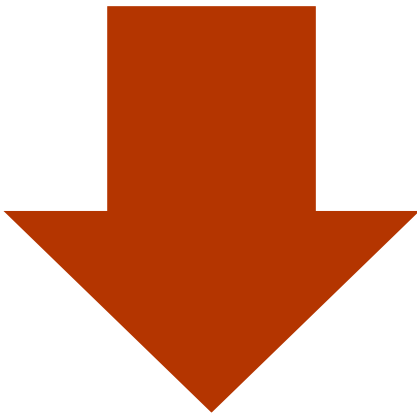
See Metrics Balance Check Worksheet for examples of metrics in each category

# Selecting Quality Metrics: Aim for a Balanced Portfolio

Consider total effort required for collection, analysis



Easy



Hard

Key point:  
Make sure that you don't have all high-effort metrics... but consider adding a small number of these if the information would be particularly valuable to you or your partner organization

# Example of metrics selection: Zuckerberg San Francisco General

## Context

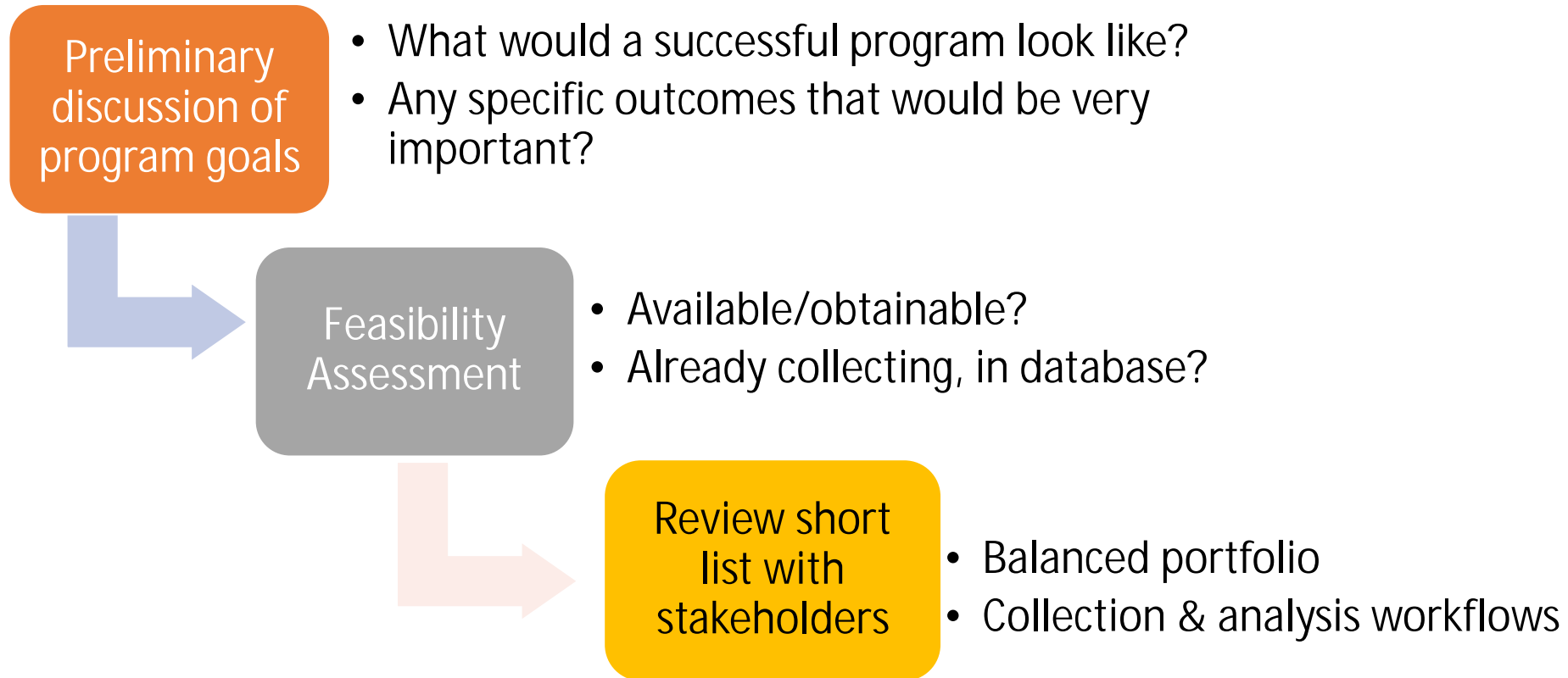
- Inpatient & Outpatient programs
  - Patients seen by both, or just one
- Cannot pull data from EHR
- Limited administrative support

## Stakeholders

- Internal
  - System leaders
  - Inpatient and outpatient teams
- External
  - SF Health Plan
  - Grant funders



# Example of metrics selection: Zuckerberg San Francisco General



# Example of metrics selection: Zuckerberg San Francisco General

	Structure/ Process/ Outcome	Quality Focus area	Important to Plan	Important to Provider	Important to other(s)	Easy to collect, analyze
Interdisciplinary team, PC certified	Structure	Operational	++	++	++ Joint Commission	++
% of patients screened for psychosocial distress	Process	Screening & Assessments	0	++	++ Cancer Committee	0/+
Number of patients seen per year	Outcome	Operational	++	++	++ System leadership	+
Average costs of patients in last yr. of life	Outcome	Utilization & Fiscal	++	++	++ PC field	-/0

# Putting it all together

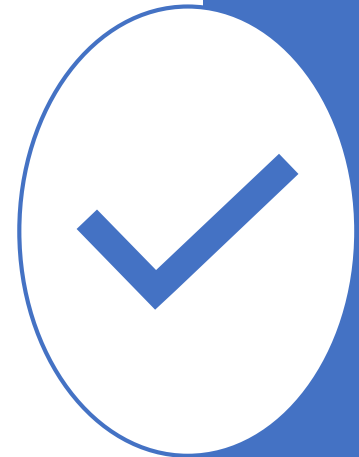
	Structure/ Process/ Outcome	Quality Focus area	Important to Plan	Important to Provider	Important to other(s)	Easy to collect, analyze
Metric 1						
Metric 2						
Metric 3						

With others from your organization and your partner organization, complete the Metrics Balance Check Worksheet

# You've selected your metrics...

## Now What?

- Discuss with partner, stakeholders
  - Targets
    - Who defines the target?
    - What happens if target isn't achieved?
  - Interval for reporting
    - Internal
    - External
  - Format for reporting, communication preferences



# Outline

- Review draft SB 1004 reporting requirements
- Measuring quality in palliative care
- Selecting metrics for your program
- Recommendations for promoting program sustainability
- Review

# Promoting Sustainability: Recommendations

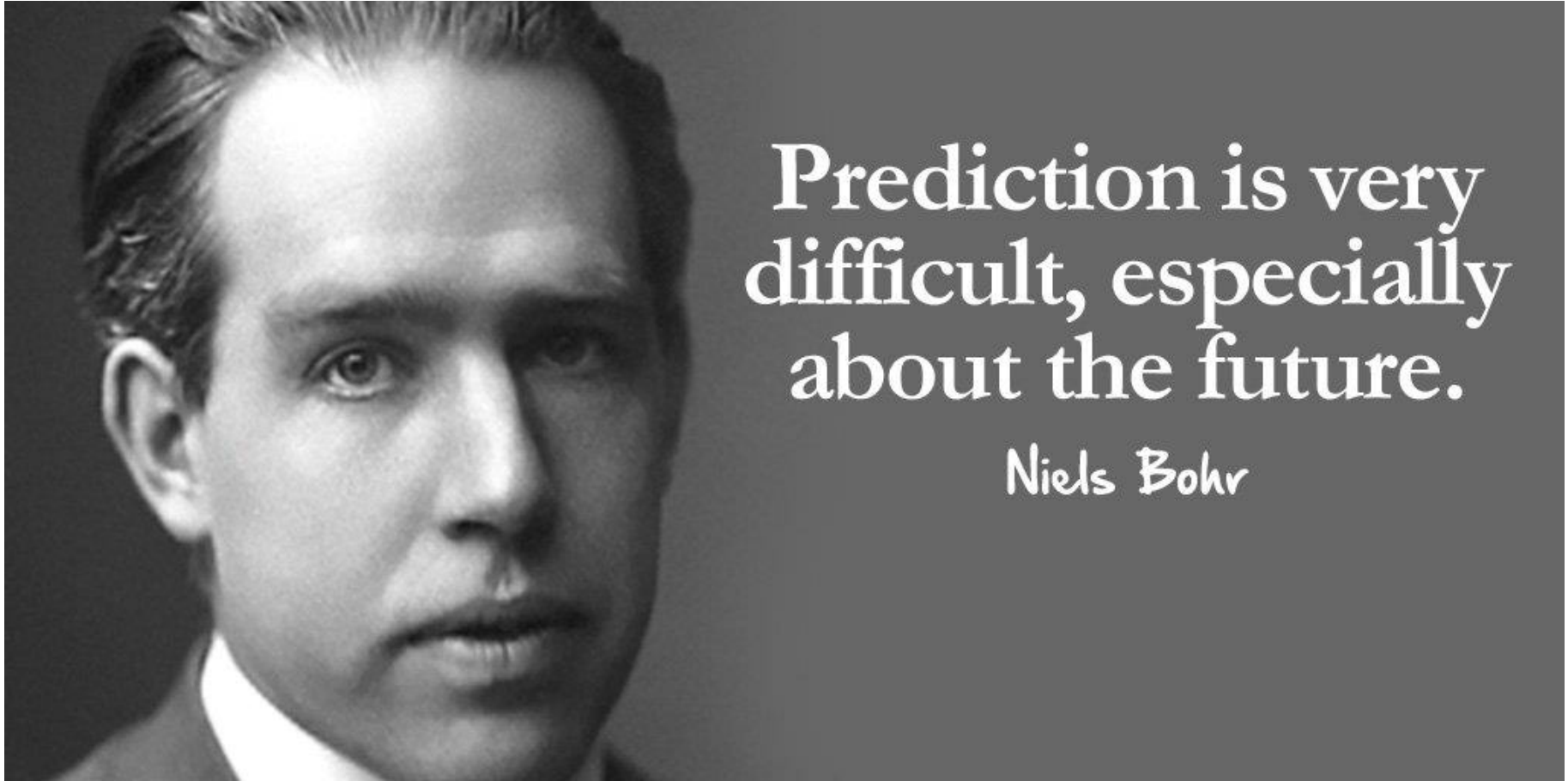
Pilot & Re-evaluate

Routine communication

Repeat the needs assessment

Pay attention to relationship with payer/provider

A wise person once said...



# Promoting Sustainability:

Issue #1:

Predicting the future is impossible



# Promoting Sustainability: Pilot & Re-evaluate

Many things are hard to predict

- Where referrals will come from, how much marketing and outreach will be required
- Which patient populations will be largest
- Roles/responsibilities of different team members
- How workflows will need to change (with changes in venue, volume, staffing, etc.)
- Projected vs. actual costs

# First choice ... best choice?

## INITIAL PLAN

(Pilot) contract  
mandated 2 RN home  
visits per patient per  
month

## CHALLENGES

- Some patients did not make themselves available for visits at predictable intervals, which reduced revenues for provider
- Some patients did not need both RN visits, but instead really needed weekly SW visits, at least in some months



# Promoting Sustainability: Pilot & Re-evaluate

- Initial efforts should be framed as pilot
- Start with expectation that things will need to be adjusted
- Define parameters
  - Interval for reassessment
  - Evaluation metrics

# First choice ... best choice?

## INITIAL PLAN

(Pilot) contract mandated 2 RN home visits per patient per month

## CHALLENGES

- Some patients did not make themselves available for visits at predictable intervals, which reduced revenues for provider
- Some patients did not need both RN visits, but instead really needed weekly SW visits, at least in some months

## POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

- Create process to waive or adjust requirement for certain patients / certain circumstances
- Suggest high-frequency initial phase followed by maintenance phase

# Promoting Sustainability: Pilot & Re-evaluate

## Issue #1:

Predicting the future is impossible

## Lesson #1:

Many successful payer-provider partnerships include routine re-evaluation of program goals, structures, workflows, outcomes

# Promoting Sustainability:

## Issue #2:

Different organizations have different cultures and different ways they prefer to communicate

# Promoting Sustainability: Routine Communication

- Develop plan for communicating regularly, particularly at the beginning of the partnership, and after any major changes in the program
- Rationale
  - Changes in staffing/leadership happen
  - Your partner's goals/priorities will change
  - Identify gaps, unmet needs on both sides
  - Fix small issues before they grow

# Promoting Sustainability: Routine Communication

## Content to consider

- Clinical
  - Troubleshooting difficult cases
  - Foster communication between plan-based providers and palliative care providers
- Operational/Programmatic
  - How many patients/members are being enrolled? How does this compare with predictions?
  - Which clinics/provider groups are (or aren't) referring?
  - Are there barriers or inefficiencies in the referral process?
  - How long are patients/members remaining enrolled?
  - What resources are lacking, for patient/caregiver support?



# Promoting Sustainability: Routine Communication

- What works best for communication?
  - Email/written
  - Remote
  - In-person
- How often are meetings needed?
- Who should be involved in different meetings?

# Promoting Sustainability: Routine Communication

## Issue #2:

Different organizations have different cultures and different ways they prefer to communicate

## Lesson #2:

Be explicit in developing routine communication strategies with your plan/provider partner(s) that will work for both organizations.

# Promoting Sustainability:

## Issue #3:

Changes in personnel, leadership, and program scope can dramatically affect payer-provider partnerships.

# Promoting Sustainability: Repeat the Needs Assessment

You've done a thorough needs assessment at the outset of the program, now you're set, right?

- Because things change, there may be key times when you should consider repeating a needs assessment
  - Change in partner(s) or key stakeholder(s)
  - Program expansion
  - Change in scope of work/responsibility
  - Changes in support and/or funding

# Promoting Sustainability: Repeat the Needs Assessment

Change in  
partner or key  
stakeholder

- Leadership
- Key clinician
- Referring partner
- Community partner

Program  
expansion

- New location
- New setting of care
- New patient population

# Promoting Sustainability: Repeat the Needs Assessment

Change in  
scope or  
responsibility

- New task assigned
- Partner takes over task
- Incentive/penalty proposed

Change in  
support or  
funding

- Grant start/finish
- In-kind donation changes
- Community program changes

# Promoting Sustainability: Repeat the Needs Assessment

## Resources for needs assessments

- SB 1004 Technical Assistance Series ([chcf.org/sb1004](http://chcf.org/sb1004))
  - Topic 1: Estimating Volume
  - Topic 2: Estimating Costs
  - Topic 3: Gauging Capacity
- Center to Advance Palliative Care
- CSU Institute for Palliative Care

# Promoting Sustainability: Repeat the Needs Assessment

## Issue #3:

Changes in personnel, leadership, and program scope can dramatically affect payer-provider partnerships.

## Lesson #3:

Repeat a needs assessment after significant changes occur on either side.



# Promoting Sustainability:

## Issue #4:

Relationships are really important, but hard.

# Relationship issues

Even a great service can't thrive if the payer-provider relationship is bad

- Partners need to be willing to communicate openly and frequently about all aspects of program planning and implementation.
- Partners need to build trust, understand why they each want to engage in this work, and show an appreciation for the pressures and priorities that impact the other organization.

# “Most important” characteristic that you look for in a CBPC partner?

## Provider:

“That they be collaborative and flexible, able to appreciate the perspective of a small partner”

## Payer:

“Ideal partner characteristics would be an ability to take in information from many perspectives (vision and mission plus practical information about service delivery nuts and bolts, and the environment), including an ability to appreciate the perspective of a payer partner.”

# Characteristics that might predict a poor fit?

## Provider:

“As we brought issues to the forefront (big and small) the plan was always willing to engage in a conversation - to hear from our perspective how a contract requirement would impact care. Even if the plan didn't agree, it was important to us that they were willing to have that collaborative conversation. Not seeing this kind of openness would be a huge red flag; a payer that just says, 'This is the way we do it' would be a difficult partner.”

## Payer:

“I try to get a sense during early meetings whether they are comfortable taking risks, if they have demonstrated an ability to think differently, and if they have a record of implementing innovations. An absence of such characteristics/history, or a rigid attachment to their own model of care delivery would indicate a poor fit.”

# Promoting Sustainability: Pay Attention to Relationships

## Issue #4:

Relationships are important, but hard.

## Lesson #4:

Flexible good. Rigid bad.

Listening, transparency, empathy and collaborative problem solving are valued highly; inflexibility is not

# Outline

- Review draft SB 1004 reporting requirements
- Measuring quality in palliative care
- Selecting metrics for your program
- Recommendations for promoting program sustainability
- Review

# Objectives Review

Review information from DHCS regarding initial program reporting requirements

Describe resources available to measure palliative care quality

- Supplement information reported to DHCS with process and outcome metrics that describe care quality
- When considering metrics look to what peers and QI collaboratives are using, and those endorsed by professional organizations

# Objectives Review

Outline process steps to select quality metrics based on local needs, resources and challenges

- Think about how success is defined by key stakeholders, and focus on the subset of metrics that speak to those areas
- Assess feasibility of both data collection and analysis
- Aim for a balance of metrics – in terms of metric type, focus area, and effort required to obtain the data



# Objectives Review

Create processes for routine program review and quality assessment

- Establish schedule for program reporting, communication
- Repeat needs assessments at key junctures (e.g. change in personnel, leadership, or patient population)

# Objectives Review

## Outline factors that promote sustainability and scaling of services

- Just because you started doesn't mean you are done – ongoing monitoring and modifications will be needed
- Culture and communication differences can have a big impact on partnerships – identify issues up-front and work toward solutions that work for both organizations
- Prioritize creating and sustaining good payer-provider relationships

# Acknowledgements and Resources

Thanks to colleagues who shared their knowledge, wisdom and experiences

- Maria Aguila, Health Plan of San Joaquin
  - Diane Coluzzi, California Health and Wellness
  - Ujjwala Dheeriya, Care Connect
  - Michael Siegel, Molina Health Care
- 
- SB 1004 Questions
    - <http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/provgovpart/Pages/Palliative-Care-and-SB-1004.aspx>
    - [SB1004@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:SB1004@dhcs.ca.gov)
- 
- Technical Assistance Series: [kmeyers@chcf.org](mailto:kmeyers@chcf.org)