Inpatient Quality Reporting (IQR) Program

Support Contractor

PSVA Demonstration and eCQM Q&A Session

Presentation Transcript

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Matt McDonough: Hello and thank you for joining us for today's webinar. My name is Matt McDonough, and I'm going to be your virtual host for today's event.

Before we get started and turn things over to our speakers, I'd like to cover some event housekeeping items with you, so that you understand how today's event is going to work, and also how you can interact with our speakers on today's call. As you can see on this slide, we are streaming

our audio for today's call over ReadyTalk®'s Internet Streaming Service. If you're hearing my voice coming out of your speakers or headphones right now, then you're connected. This service means that no telephone line is required to listen to today's event, but you do need to have those speakers or headphones plugged in and turned up to hear the streaming audio feed. If for some reasons you're not able to stream audio today, or your encounter issues with the streaming audio feed, we do have a limited number of dial in lines available. Please just send us a chat message if you need to dial in, and we'll get that number out to you as soon as possible. Also, as always, we are recording today's event, so that it can be achieved and played back a later date.

If you are streaming audio today, you may encounter some audio issues that affect the quality of your audio feed. For example, you may hear choppy audio at times or your audio feed may stop completely. Fortunately, there are a few things you can do to try and correct this without dialing in on a telephone. One, you can click the F5 key located in the top row of your keyboard. Two, you could click the refresh button in your browser. The image here on this slide is what that button looks like in Internet Explorer. Either of these two actions will do the same thing. Refresh your browser, reconnect you to the event and restart your audio feed. This should clear up any audio issues you may be experiencing. Also, if you note that the audio feed is lagging behind the slides, you can perform either of these two actions to refresh your event and catch up in the presentation. If neither of these two options resolves your audio issue, remember, we do have those dial in lines available. Simply reach out to us in the chat window for a dial in number, and you can listen to the audio feed that way.

If you're streaming audio today and hear a bad echo on the call, does it sound like you can hear my voice multiple times? Then you may be connected in our event today in more than one browser window or tab. More than one connection in your browser equals more than one audio stream from your computer. Fortunately, this is something that you can easily fix. Simply close all but one of the browsers or tabs connected to

our event today. The graphic here shows what that might look like on your screen. Once you are down to only one connection, you should only be hearing one audio stream and the echoing issue should clear up. Again, we do have dial in lines available, if you prefer to hear the audio feed over your telephone.

All of our attendees are in a listen-only mode today. But, that doesn't mean that you can't interact with our speakers today. We encourage you to submit any questions or comments you may have to our speakers at any time today using the Chat with Presenter feature located in the bottom left corner of your screen. Simply type your question of comment into the Chat with Presenter box and click the Send button. Your feedback will be visible to all of our presenters on today's call. As time, resources, and the availability of answers allows, we will address as many questions as possible, either verbally or in the chat window. Please do note however, that if we don't get to your question today, all questions submitted during today's event are being archived to be address in a future Q&A document. That's going to do it for my introduction, so at this point, I'd like to hand things over to our first speaker. Thanks for your time and enjoy today's event.

Deb Price: Well thank you Matt. Hello and welcome to our *PSVA Demonstration and eCQM Program Q&A Session* webinar. My name is Deb Price and I will be your host for today's event. Before we begin, I'd like to make a few announcements. This program is being recorded. A transcript of the presentation, along with the Q&As, will be posted to the inpatient website, www.qualityreportingcenter.com within 10 business days. And, it will be posted to *QualityNet* at a later date. If you registered for this event, a reminder email, as well as the slides, were made available to you about two hours ago. If you did not receive that email, you can still download the slides that are on the inpatient website at www.qualityreportingcenter.com. And now, I'd like to take a second to introduce our guest speakers, Jennifer Seeman and Artrina Sturges. Jennifer Seeman is the Inpatient Quality Reporting and Hospital Quality Reporting, Electronic Health Record Program Manager, Project

Management Business Requirements Contractor. Dr. Artrina Sturges is the Interim Project Lead, electronic Clinical Quality Measure, Electronic Health Record Alignment, Hospital Inpatient Value, Incentives, and Quality Reporting, Outreach and Education Support Contractor. Wow, that's a mouthful. If you have any questions for either Jennifer or Dr. Sturges, as they move through the webinar, please type the name Artrina or Jennifer at the beginning of your questions, so we can direct the question to the appropriate party. Any questions that are not answered during our question and answer session at the end of the webinar will be posted to the qualityreportingcenter.com website within ten business days. And, now I'd like to introduce Dr. Sturges who will begin the webinar with the purpose and objectives. Artrina, take it away.

Artrina Sturges: Thank you ~~Deb,~~Deb and good afternoon everyone. For today's webinar, we are offering a demonstration of the Pre-s\Submission Validation Application and a question and answer session focused on the mandatory eCQM reporting requirements for calendar year 2016. Next slide please.

Next slide please.

Okay, as you can see, we have a number of objectives listed~~; it~~; it includes greater knowledge accessing and utilizing the PSVA tool and related resources, increasing data submitter awareness of the mandatory 2016 eCQM reporting requirements for the IQR and the EHR Incentive Programs, and understanding the benefits of attending open office hours, which we'll discuss a little bit later on in the presentation. So, for right now, we're going to go ahead and turn the presentation over to Jen Seeman, and she'll share information with us about the PSVA tool.

Jennifer Seeman: Okay, thanks Artrina. So, first of all, I'm just going to go through some initial information slides, and then we will move in to a live demo of the tool itself. So, the basic information we will go through is,~~is~~ what is the PSVA. And, PSVA is an application that was developed in response to submitters concerns about testing for QRDA files. It is available for download from *QualityNet* in the secure file transfer area of the *QualityNet Secure Portal*.

The benefits to using PSVA include the submitter's ability to test and received feedback without having to access the *QualityNet* system itself. The tool does currently have the 2016 QRDA HQR validation rules in it. The tool does not currently provide measure outcome calculation. One other advantage to using the tool is that once the files pass validation within the tool, they can then be securely submitted to CMS.

This slide is just a simple diagram outlining the process of the PSVA and the main components within that process.

The technical requirements in order to utilize the PSVA tool include: the ability to create CAT 1, Release 3 QRDA files that are also conformant to the 2016 CMS IG, you must have a user account with *QualityNet Secure Portal* access to download the tool; and, you must have a user role that includes the EHR Data Upload Role to submit files through the tool.

System Requirements: I'm not going to specially call out. They're listed here for reference.

Then, what we'll start to go through is the process to download the tool. And, the first step in that process is to access *QualityNet Secure Portal*. You can see the options for that on this slide.

You can select Secure File Transfer once you get to the secure landing page. You will then enter your *QualityNet* user credentials, User ID password and security code.

You'll want to accept the terms of agreement.

Once you have logged in, you'll want to select Secure File Transfer at the top of the screen. And, I am going to jump over to some different screens.

And once you are in Secure File Transfer, what you will see is the PSVA download option and there are two ways that you can select this. You can either double click in the file window or open it up through the menu on the left side of the screen.

Once you open –

Deb Price: Jennifer, I'm sorry. Could you speak a little louder? We're getting some questions about the voice.

Jennifer Seeman: Yes. Sorry. Is that better?

Deb Price: Thank you. That's better. Thank you.

Jennifer Seeman: Okay. Once you open the download folder, then the second step is to double click the PSVA tool zip file. You will then be prompted to open or save that file. Once you save that file, the zip file onto your system, you'll extract it to the location of your choosing. This was displaying right now as a folder that will open, and we'll touch on a couple high spots here. The user manual is available in this folder. Also, the log folder is another important place to understand. Basically, if we have to do any trouble shooting on your system, you may be requested to send this log file to the service people to help you troubleshoot. And then, the most important obviously is the launch tool. So, once we select that, we will now just walk through the live demo piece of the application. The first thing you should see is the actual log in screen. You will use your *QualityNet* credentials here, as well as ID and password. This process, admittedly, is a little bit slow. So, be patient with it. I know that right now, it might not seem like it's responding, but it is in fact going back to the secure portal and verifying the version ID and the credentials of the log in. So, it takes just a few seconds for that screen to actually – the next screen to actually appear once it's done those checks. So, let's give it a couple of minutes. So, once the version check and the credentials have been verified, you will get a message that either tells you that you have the latest version of the tool and you're good to start validating files, or you could potentially get a message here that would tell you that you need to download a new version, or you don't have the most current version. In which case, you would just go back to *QualityNet* and go through the steps we just covered, in order to download the latest version of the tool. So, once that check is done, we can select the program that you want to validate files against; currently, these files are available for validation. These three sets of rules in particular are all validating against the same rule set. So, if you're validating for HQR in any one of those that you select is fine. We

can then add files from your drive or from your system. And, I'm going to randomly pick some files that I have available and select open. What it will do then is to populate that file in your system. It tells you that it's been loaded into the application. You select the files that you want to validate; and select to validate the files. Now, it will take a few seconds, and then you'll get an indicator file that will tell us that it's in process. Once the validation is complete, we'll be able to see which files within the zip file passed validation and which files did not pass validation. There we go. The testing is in process. Okay, as soon as validation has completed, you'll get a pop up window that states it's done. And, the next thing you'll see is that the initial zip file that I put into the application has now been split into two files. The reason is that these files listed with the same name, with the extension good, are the files that passed validation. The second line indicates the file within the original zip that did not pass validation. You can see the status is listed as valid or invalid and the summary of this – of the files and their status. So, four of the files within the zip that I validated did pass. One of the files within the zip did not pass. So, if we want to evaluate why the file did not pass validation, we can go to the feedback file and that will open a (Comma Separated Values) CSV file that contains all of the messages that were initiated from that file. So, you will be able to look at those errors and determine what needs to be fixed before you actually submit the error or just submit the file, I'm sorry. The warning messages are not critical errors. They are listed as information that could be addressed, but they are not required for submission or acceptance by the CMS system. So, we can go through that file and find critical errors that will cause submission errors with the CMS system as well. At this point then, you can edit the file on your own desktop, and add it and resubmit or revalidate within the application. Or, we can just opt to remove it at that point because it's – we know we don't want to submit that file. So, we can remove it. It will notify us that the file has been removed. If we want to pursue submitting these files that pass validation to CMS, we have two options to do so. We can either submit them as test files to the CMS system, or we can submit them as production files to the CMS system. And, this would be the same as going directly to *QualityNet* and either selecting test of production submissions

within that system. I will go ahead and submit this zip file as a test, so we can step through that. It will notify you that you have selected to submit the file and give you the option to cancel. We will continue. There'll be a brief moment, again, while credentials are checked. And, once the upload process is complete, we will get another message. This process also will take a few minutes, so we will see a progress bar indicator and the message when the process is completed. Submissions that go through the PSVA tool are also subject to additional validation by the CMS system. You would also expect to see the same email notifications as you would if you went directly through Secure File Transfer. So, our message has appeared that lets us know that the files were successfully uploaded to CMS. There is also a note indicating that you – just because these files were uploaded successfully does not indicate that program requirements have been met. So, we need to make sure that even though you have successfully submitted the files that your program requirements have been met. That's very important. So then, what you would expect to see is the initial email from the CMS system that would indicate your file had been uploaded. And, the secondary email that would indicate whether the files had been accepted or rejected from the CMS system. Once you are done, you can note that the status of these files has change to submitted. You can select to remove them. And, repeat the process as needed to add files. And Artrina, I will hand it back over to you. That concludes my live demo. Thank you.

Artrina Sturges: Okay, Jen. Thank you very much for that. This is fantastic information. I know a lot of people will be grateful to have this tool to do their testing. We're just going to quickly do a brief overview of the Calendar Year 2016 eCQM reporting requirements. So, next slide please.

Okay, so as we've discussed, clinical measures, the data for these measures are submitted in different ways. And, it really depends on the mode of collections that's going to determine how that works. So, most of you are familiar with the types of clinical measures that are listed here on the slide; so, typically, chart abstracted or claims based. But, what we're focusing on for 2016 is the newest mode of collection, which includes the

submission of electronic Clinical Quality Measures, which are generated by your certified EHR. Now, if you look at the bottom bullet on this slide, it's a link to provide all of the measures for the Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting Program. So, all of those are available for you on the *QualityNet* website. Next slide please.

Now for Calendar Year 2016, hospitals are required to report a minimum of four of the 28 available eCQMs for the IQR Program. CMS believes that requiring hospitals to report a minimum of four is reasonable because it significantly reduces burden for hospitals from the 16 that were needed for the Calendar Year 2015 voluntary reporting options. But, it still allows for the collection of data, which is derived from the EHRs to further plans for electronic data collection and validation. So, as we mentioned, hospitals are required to report the four for one quarter. But, it's either quarter three or quarter four, and the submission deadline is February 28, 2017. You'll see another note there that indicates that CMS finalized policy that does not require any of the four eCQMs to fall under any particular National Quality Strategy domain. And, let's also keep in mind that by meeting this IQR Program requirement, this also satisfies the Clinical Quality Measure requirement of the Medicare EHR Incentive Programs for hospitals. Next slide please.

In addition, for Calendar Year 2016, we want to make sure that we emphasize the fact that the submission of eCQMs, does not eliminate the requirement to submit data for the chart abstracted and web-based measures, the population and sampling data, and any other IQR reporting requirements. So, just keep in mind that submitting eCQMs is now a separate reporting requirement within the IQR Program. Next slide please.

So, we just discussed option one in terms of the reporting options for Clinical Quality Measures. So, let's talk a little bit more about option two. The second option is that for the Medicare EHR Incentive Program, and in order to meet that Clinical Quality Measure requirement that we talked about, the requirement is to submit aggregate data for 16 eCQMs for a full year through the CMS registration and attestation system. Also, just to re-

emphasize, attestation of eCQM data will not meet the IQR Program eCQM requirements. There are also other requirements that are beyond the Clinical Quality Measure requirement for the Medicare EHR Incentive Program. So, if you look on the slide, we do have that link there for you to the CMS website to review all of the program requirements. Next slide please.

We just wanted to revisit the 29 available eCQMs and these, as we've mentioned, these eCQMs are aligned between the IQR Program and the Medicare EHR Incentive Program. As you'll notice there, ED-3 is highlighted on this chart, just to indicate that it is indeed an outpatient measure, and it's not applicable for IQR reporting. Next slide please.

You know, in terms of the reporting standards, eligible hospitals and Critical Access Hospitals that seek to report CQMs electronically, under the Medicare EHR Incentive and/or the Hospital IQR Programs, must use specific standards. The first is that a hospital has to use a certified EHR that meets the 2014 or the 2015 ONC standards. The second is that for 2016 reporting, the hospital will need to use the 2015 version of the electronic specification for the CQMs. In addition, there's a 2016 CMS QRDA Implementation Guide that's available for Eligible Professionals and Hospital Quality Reporting. And again, the most recent specifications, which includes the guides and all these things that we talked about here, are all available on the eCQM library page of the CMS website. And again, that link is available on the bottom of this slide. Hospitals are encourage to work with their vendors to confirm that they're certified to the required standards. Next slide please.

Now hospitals are able to submit their data files directly to the CMS hospital eCQM receiving systems through the *QualityNet Secure Portal,* utilizing certified EHR technology, which is what we've been discussing. Hospitals need to make sure you have the EHR Data Upload Role added to your *QualityNet* account to be able to submit data for this requirement and also to ensure you're able to authorized a vendor to submit data on your behalf. Next slide please.

Now for vendors that are planning to submit on behalf of hospitals, so again, they'll have to have that *QualityNet Secure Portal* account; they also will need the EHR Data Upload Role added to their account; and then, the hospital will need to log in to the *QualityNet Secure Portal* and authorize that vendor in the vendor authorization screen. And then, for hospitals, you can authorize your vendors to report by measure set, data transmission start and end dates, or discharge quarter start and end dates. Next slide please.

In terms of defining successful eCQM submission, this includes a submission of QRDA, Category 1 files, with patients meeting the initial patient population of the applicable measures, zero denominator declarations, and/or case threshold exceptions for at least four of the available eCQMs that we reviewed earlier. So again, this was just a very brief overview. And, what we'll do is that Jen is going to rejoin us, and she's going to discuss the availability of open office hours.

Jennifer Seeman: Thanks Artrina. So, this is a – let me take a step back – I apologize. One of the things that we were able to do last year throughout test submissions was that we were able to monitor the files that were being submitted as test and production files, and we were able to query some of that data and determine which errors that submitters were struggling the most with, within those QRDA files they were submitting. Based on that data that we were able to collect, we were able to put together presentations and provide some detailed support and focus on the errors that were causing folks the most problems. One of the things that we aren't able to do yet this year is receive test submission within the CMS system. As we work to provide the level of support that we anticipate may be needed for submitters this year, one of the options that we have – are wanting to evaluate, is the concept of open office hours. And, what that means is that, we are hoping that we can engage submitters, who are testing early with PSVA, and encourage them to bring us back their feedback, their information, about what they're seeing and what errors they're getting within the PSVA tool. And, if they can participate and bring us that information, we will be able to provide some guidance and identify where

people are struggling earlier than we would normally be able to. So, really anybody that is interested in participating, we'll send out some information about being in contact with that. And essentially, again, who would participate would be anybody that is attempting to prepare to submit production files this fall for eCQM to EHR, HQR or IQR Programs. And that is really the information that I wanted to share about that – that concept. Again, we're just looking for a way to provide guidance earlier than we'd be able to with our CMS data. And, I will hand it over for questions.

Artrina Sturges: Okay. Thank you so much Jen. At this time, Beth Driskell from the Project Management Business Requirements Contractor and Veronica Dunlap from the Hospital Inpatient Value Incentive and Quality Reporting Outreach and Education Support Contractor are going to be joining us to answer your questions. So again, as was stated earlier, please place your questions in the chat box, and any questions which are not addressed on this call will be answered and posted as part of the questions and answer transcript placed on the qualityreportingcenter.com website. So, Veronica, I'll hand it over to you. And, if you'd like, go ahead and start with the questions, that would be great.

Veronica Dunlap: Sure. Great. Thank you, Artrina. I want to thank everyone for their excellent questions and we're going to try to get to a lot of them here. Again, we appreciate your time and attending the webinar. Let me see here. When we start using the PSVA tool to make secure submissions to CMS, I have used the PSVA tools to check the test files, but the options to submit wasn't allowed.

Jennifer Seeman: This is Jen. I can take that one. So, the initial versions of PSVA did not have the functionality included to submit files to CMS. So, what you should do is go out to *QualityNet* and download the latest version of PSVA and that will allow you to have that submit functionality.

Veronica Dunlap: Great. Thank you. Another one here, we have a lot of questions concerning, do you have to download the PSVA tools for each CCN, or can it be used for all of our CCNs?

Jennifer Seeman: I'll take that one too, Veronica. The CCNs do not matter. So, this is really about the user work station that you want to be able to utilize the tool on. The PSVA currently doesn't validate the CCNs that you're using to submit. So, that's one thing to keep in mind. You can submit any CCN through there, but that CCN will be subject to verification and authorization role checks, once it gets to the CMS system.

Veronica Dunlap: Great. Do you need to be signed in to *QualityNet* to be able to use the PSVA tool?

Jennifer Seeman: No. It operates strictly on the user's work station.

Veronica Dunlap: Is there a manual with all the details on how to download and run the PSVA tool; and if so, where can I find it?

Jennifer Seeman: The user manual is included within that zip that is downloaded. So, you can follow the on screen directions to download the zip file, extract it, and once you extract that file, you'll be able to access the user manual.

Veronica Dunlap: Okay. Is there a reason for hospitals to utilize the PSVA tool, if they're utilizing a vendor?

Jennifer Seeman: If you are working with a vendor and your vendor is taking care of your testing and submission of your QRDA files, no, you would not necessarily have a need to use the PSVA.

Veronica Dunlap: Okay. Does the PSVA tool use the same validator as the internal CMS validator?

Jennifer Seeman: For the schematron rules, yes. Those rules are the same. I do have to say that there are some additional validations that are done by the CMS system, and that's one of the things that I eluded to earlier. The PSVA does not do CCN checks. It doesn't do program date checks, for example. There are a few verifications that the CMS system does above and beyond the PSVA tool. The validation rules themselves are the same.

Veronica Dunlap: Great. What happens to the files that are not removed from the PSVA? How long will they remain there?

Jennifer Seeman: So, those files are actually put into a submission folder which will show – actually, they're not stored. I apologize. I take that back. Let me go to the next question. I apologize.

Veronica Dunlap: Sure. That's okay.

Jennifer Seeman: I will need to make sure of that one.

Veronica Dunlap: Will there be a webinar later in the year to go over the submission of production files through the portal? Artrina, maybe?

Jennifer Seeman: Yes. I was going to say – I would say that we would be open to that, but I would defer to Artrina.

Artrina Sturges: Yes. I believe that that's something we should be able to schedule.

Veronica Dunlap: Okay. Let's see here. Will the eCQM measures be publicly reported?

Artrina Sturges: Hi. This is Artrina. So, in terms of eCQM measures, in terms of any outcomes for public reporting, at this time, the final – the Final Rule is indicating that they will not be published for this year. So, any updates related to Calendar Year 2016 – any updates to that will be captured in a future Final Rule.

Veronica Dunlap: Okay. What happens after the test files are submitted to QNet? Is feedback provided on the test files?

Jennifer Seeman: So, I think I understand this question, but I will clarify a little bit. So, once you submit a file to CMS, then you still have the possibility to go to *QualityNet* and run any reports that you normally would, as if you submitted the file through Secure File Transfer. So, yes, that feedback would be available through the CMS system as well.

Veronica Dunlap: Okay. Can you submit all the files together or do you have to submit each one, each specific measure, individually?

Jennifer Seeman: You can submit multiple measures within one file.

Veronica Dunlap: This one is for Artrina. Is population and sampling required with the eCQM measures that are submitted?

Artrina Sturges: Thank you Veronica. No, for anything that has to do with eCQMs, population and sampling is not required. But, that will continue to be a required function for any of the other aspects for IQR reporting, so chart abstracted things like that, but not for eCQMs, no.

Veronica Dunlap: Okay. And in addition to that, what quarters are due and when for 2016 reporting?

Jennifer Seeman: Okay, thank you. So, for 2016 reporting, it's either quarter three data or quarter four data, and it's due by February 28, 2017.

Veronica Dunlap: Okay. I'm not sure how many more questions we have. Do you know if when or how the customers can get quality reports showing performance on each measure?

Jennifer Seeman: So, for each measure, if you submit test data, you can check calculations or measure outcomes by using report – the submission and performance feedback report. Once production files are accepted into the system, the performance summary report, through the *QualityNet Secure Portal* will allow you to review aggregate summary data for measure level information.

Veronica Dunlap: Okay. Looks like there's some questions regarding the live demo about if there is – if there's anything that tells you when the files are processing, I think I did see a pop up box when you did the demonstration. But, that was a question about if there's something that tells you that the files are processing.

Jennifer Seeman: From a validation perspective, yes. What I would say is that there is a slight delay in the time that – from the time that you select validate to the time that that progress bar pops up. But then, you will see the progress bar, and you will also get notification when the validation process is complete.

Veronica Dunlap: Did you say that clicking on submit production files to CMS officially submits the files to CMS?

Jennifer Seeman: That is correct. It will send the files to CMS for processing. After you submit though, you should still confirm that you should get the initial upload email from CMS, and you should also get the second email confirming that the file has been accepted and processing is complete. Then, you can go in also and check your final status within *QualityNet*. But, the submission button does submit the file to CMS.

Veronica Dunlap: Great. Is it required to do a test submission, or is it just recommended?

Jennifer Seeman: It's very, very highly recommended. We see a lot of – there is a lot of very intricate rules for QRDA, and we very strongly suggest that you submit test files, and submit test files early to ensure your files will pass validation once you get to the time that you need to submit production.

Veronica Dunlap: Okay. In the last round of submissions, we noticed some files which passed the PSVA, but not CMS for some template format. Are there any known issues at this time?

Jennifer Seeman: At this time, the validation rules themselves are in alignment. So, that the only additional checks that we would see in the CMS system are related to, like I alluded to earlier, some date checks in CCN verifications. At this time, the rule should be aligned. That's what we're striving for.

Veronica Dunlap: Really, you developed functionality in the tool that will allow for measure of value of calculation?

Jennifer Seeman: We have investigated that at this time. We don't have any date, or I can't say a structured plan for that to be in place. But, it is something that we're looking at.

Veronica Dunlap: Okay. And Artrina, how does one get a *QualityNet* security account?

Artrina Sturges: Okay, Veronica, if you can address that, it would be fantastic.

Veronica Dunlap: Sure. No problem. To obtain a security *QualityNet* account, providers and vendors would need to contact the *QualityNet* help desk and start that paper work and request that role. And their number is 866-288-8912, or you may email them at qnetsupport@hcqis.org. And also, to submit eCQMs, both the hospital and vendor must obtain what we call the EHR Data Upload Role.

Let me see if we have any more questions. Can you elaborate on the initial patient populations? This is for acute hospitals correct, and not inpatient site or rehab.

Jennifer Seeman: So, the initial patient population is actually part of the eCQM, and it's basically the first pull of patients that meet the criteria for that measure. So, what we mean by that is that our expectation is that when you submit eCQMs, the patients that you submit that data for should, at minimum, meet the initial patient population for that measure. So, if there are a certain population age groups of patients that are excluded for that particular measure, we would not expect you to submit data for that patient in the eCQM. I hope that helps.

Veronica Dunlap: Okay. And, I'm not sure if we'll know this one; but, are there any eCQM measures that are listed now that will be removed beginning in 2017?

Jennifer Seeman: That, I would just defer to a policy and the rule making process for that kind of information.

Veronica Dunlap: Okay. We have downloaded the PSVA file and are getting a message that our version is outdated. However, when we go in to re-download, we only have version PSVA 1.1.1.

Beth Driskell: Hi. So this is Beth. The reason that happen is because we updated the user guide. And so, any time we update any information within the tool or the tool itself, we're going to prompt you to re-download the tool, so that you can get the newest updated information.

Veronica Dunlap: Great. Thank you. You mentioned the rules are the same between hospital quality, EHR, IQR, does this mean that an eligible hospital can submit the exact same QRDA files for both meaningful used and IQR?

Jennifer Seeman: That is correct. So, if they wish to – if a hospital wishes to submit the same eCQMs for both programs, they would only need to submit the single file. And, it would count towards credit for both programs given that the eCQMs that they select are applicable in both programs.

Veronica Dunlap: Okay. And, you might have alluded to this before, but it seems to be a common questions. What is the purpose of using the PSVA tools, if not for the submission of the eCQMs?

Jennifer Seeman: So, if you are not participating in meaningful use or IQR, then you would not need to – you don't fall under the requirement to submit eCQMs for whatever reason, you would not need to use PSVA at this time. The advantage, if you are an IQR hospital, if you are choosing to submit QRDA files for meaningful use credit, the advantage to using PSVA is that you can test your files prior to production submissions to CMS for validation.

Veronica Dunlap: Okay. When are both test files and production files going to be able to be accessed by the hospitals and vendors?

Jennifer Seeman: So, for the CMS system our – the date that we will start accepting production submission is October first. We plan to have the system available for tests submissions prior to that date. But, we do not, at this time, have a set date.

Veronica Dunlap: How will I find out about upcoming dates and notifications regarding the eCQM submission process for 2016?

I can answer that one. For questions and updates and notices, we highly recommend that your staff goes to the qualitynet.org website. And, on the homepage on the far left, you will choose the link to join ListServes and sign up for the EHR notifications. These notifications will provide updates on dates and requirements and any type of news that needs to

come through the system for you to be up to date and educated on. And, if you have any questions, if you need any assistance with that, you can always call the support contractor at 844-472-4477.

Can we still validate the structure of our QRDA-1 file by doing a test submissions through *QualityNet*? And, if so, is there an advantage to doing that versus using the PSVA tool?

Jennifer Seeman: Yes, that option will be available. We don't have a release date for the system. So, one advantage would be that you could start earlier using the PSVA application. The other advantage would be that you don't necessarily have to log in to *QualityNet* each time you want to test a file, if you use the application. But yes, you will still have the option to submit test files to CMS for validation and measure outcome.

Veronica Dunlap: Okay. Great. I don't have any more questions here. If anyone else has any more questions. We just have a few minutes here. Go ahead and enter them in the chat feature.

Artrina Sturges: Yes, and we'll address those, as we said, in the transcript for the Q&A session. Jen, Beth and Veronica, thank you very much for all your assistance with the questions. We'll go ahead – and we'll just finish out a couple of other things. The next slide is already showing in terms of phone support. As Veronica mentioned, if you have anything in terms of program questions, the information is listed here on the slide, as well as the contact information for the *QualityNet* help desk. And then, if you have any specific questions regarding the EHR Incentive program, there is a group available, as well, via the information center to answer your questions. And then, for the next slide, we'll go ahead and we'll transition back to Deb, and she'll talk with you more about the Continuing Education.

Deb Price: Well thank you very much Artrina and the rest of the speakers. Today's webinar has been approved for one Continuing Education credit by the boards listed on this slide. We are now a nationally accredited nursing

provider and, as such, own nurses report their own credits to their boards using the number you see on the last bullet. It's provider number 16578.

We now have an online CE Certificate process where you can receive your CE certificate two separate ways. If you register for the webinar through ReadyTalk®, a survey will automatically pop up when the webinar closes. The survey will allow you to obtain your certificate. The second way is if you're in a room where only one person registered. Within 48 hours, we're going to send out another survey. If you're in a room with other people, please use that second survey and pass it to the other people in the room. There is a time limit so keep in mind, we keep this webinars only open for a week and that is so we can get – we can prepare the next week webinars.

If you have any problems getting your certificate, and you do not immediately receive a response to your email, that means you have some kind of a fire wall that popped up since the last time you received a certificate from us. And, if that's the case, please go back to the links that are in your survey and register, again using the new user link and register yourself with your personal email. Personal emails like Yahoo or AOL or ATT, those do not have fire walls that block our links.

This is what the survey looks like that should pop up as soon as our slides are done. And, in the lower right hand corner, you see a gray box that says Done. You will click that button

… and this box will appear. There're two green links in this box. The first one is the new user link and that's the one that I mentioned, if you're having any problems, please register your personal email on that, that new user link. If however, you haven't had any problems, getting our certificates, then you'd go to the existing user link.

Here's what the new user link takes you to. You put your first name, you last name, your complete email, that's your personal email and also gives us a phone number that we can associate with that email.

This is what the existing user page looks like. The user name is your complete e-mail address including what's after the @ sign. And, of course, your password.

And now, I'd like to thank everyone for spending an hour of their time with us. I hope you learned something. Have a great rest of the day, and goodbye. See you next time.

END