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State of Minnesota
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NINETIETH SESSION

H. F. No. 1517

02/22/2017 Authored by Dean, M.,
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services Reform

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to health; modifying provisions governing measures to assess the quality
1.3 of health care services offered by health care providers; amending Minnesota
1.4 Statutes 2016, sections 62U.02; 256B.072.

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 62U.02, is amended to read:

1.7 **62U.02 PAYMENT RESTRUCTURING; QUALITY INCENTIVE PAYMENTS.**

1.8 Subdivision 1. **Development.** (a) The commissioner of health shall develop a standardized
1.9 set of measures for use by health plan companies as specified in subdivision 5. From the
1.10 standardized set of measures, the commissioner shall establish statewide measures by which
1.11 to assess the quality of health care services offered by health care providers, including health
1.12 care providers certified as health care homes under section 256B.0751. ~~Quality measures~~
1.13 ~~must be based on medical evidence and be developed through a process in which providers~~
1.14 ~~participate.~~ The statewide measures shall be used for the quality incentive payment system
1.15 developed in subdivision 2 and the quality transparency requirements in subdivision 3. The
1.16 statewide measures must:

1.17 (1) for purposes of assessing the quality of care provided at physician clinics, including
1.18 clinics certified as health care homes under section 256B.0751, be selected from the available
1.19 measures as defined in Code of Federal Regulations, title 42, part 414 or 495, as amended,
1.20 unless a particular diagnosis, condition, service, or procedure is not reflected in any of the
1.21 available measures;

1.22 (2) be based on medical evidence;

1.23 (3) be developed through a process in which providers participate;

2.1 ~~(1)~~ (4) include uniform definitions, measures, and forms for submission of data, to the
 2.2 greatest extent possible;

2.3 ~~(2)~~ (5) seek to avoid increasing the administrative burden on health care providers; and

2.4 ~~(3) be initially based on existing quality indicators for physician and hospital services,~~
 2.5 ~~which are measured and reported publicly by quality measurement organizations, including,~~
 2.6 ~~but not limited to, Minnesota Community Measurement and specialty societies;~~

2.7 ~~(4)~~ (6) place a priority on measures of health care outcomes, rather than process measures,
 2.8 wherever possible; ~~and~~

2.9 ~~(5) incorporate measures for primary care, including preventive services, coronary artery~~
 2.10 ~~and heart disease, diabetes, asthma, depression, and other measures as determined by the~~
 2.11 ~~commissioner.~~

2.12 The measures may also include measures of care infrastructure and patient satisfaction.

2.13 (b) By June 30, 2018, the commissioner shall review and update the statewide measures
 2.14 used to assess the quality of health care services offered by health care providers, including
 2.15 health care providers certified as health care homes under section 256B.0751. The updated
 2.16 statewide measures shall be based on a measurement framework that identifies the most
 2.17 important elements for assessing the quality of care, articulates statewide quality improvement
 2.18 goals, ensures clinical relevance, fosters alignment with other measurement efforts, and
 2.19 defines the roles of stakeholders. No more than six statewide measures shall be required
 2.20 for single-specialty physician practices and no more than ten statewide measures shall be
 2.21 required for multispecialty physician practices. Measures in addition to the six statewide
 2.22 measures for single-specialty practices and the ten statewide measures for multispecialty
 2.23 practices may be included for a physician practice if derived from administrative claims
 2.24 data. The commissioner shall develop the framework in consultation with stakeholders that
 2.25 include consumer, community, and advocacy organizations representing diverse communities
 2.26 and patients; health plan companies; health care providers whose quality is assessed; health
 2.27 care purchasers; community health boards; and quality improvement and measurement
 2.28 organizations. The commissioner, in consultation with stakeholders, shall review the
 2.29 framework at least once every three years.

2.30 ~~(b)~~ (c) Effective July 1, 2016, the commissioner shall stratify quality measures by race,
 2.31 ethnicity, preferred language, and country of origin beginning with five measures, and
 2.32 stratifying additional measures to the extent resources are available. On or after January 1,
 2.33 2018, the commissioner may require measures to be stratified by other sociodemographic
 2.34 factors that according to reliable data are correlated with health disparities and have an

3.1 impact on performance on quality or cost indicators. New methods of stratifying data under
3.2 this paragraph must be tested and evaluated through pilot projects prior to adding them to
3.3 the statewide system. In determining whether to add additional sociodemographic factors
3.4 and developing the methodology to be used, the commissioner shall consider the reporting
3.5 burden on providers and determine whether there are alternative sources of data that could
3.6 be used. The commissioner shall ensure that categories and data collection methods are
3.7 developed in consultation with those communities impacted by health disparities using
3.8 culturally appropriate community engagement principles and methods. The commissioner
3.9 shall implement this paragraph in coordination with the contracting entity retained under
3.10 subdivision 4, in order to build upon the data stratification methodology that has been
3.11 developed and tested by the entity. Nothing in this paragraph expands or changes the
3.12 commissioner's authority to collect, analyze, or report health care data. Any data collected
3.13 to implement this paragraph must be data that is available or is authorized to be collected
3.14 under other laws. Nothing in this paragraph grants authority to the commissioner to collect
3.15 or analyze patient-level or patient-specific data of the patient characteristics identified under
3.16 this paragraph.

3.17 ~~(e)~~ (d) The statewide measures shall be reviewed at least annually by the commissioner.

3.18 Subd. 2. **Quality incentive payments.** (a) By July 1, 2009, the commissioner shall
3.19 develop a system of quality incentive payments under which providers are eligible for
3.20 quality-based payments that are in addition to existing payment levels, based upon a
3.21 comparison of provider performance against specified targets, and improvement over time.
3.22 The targets must be based upon and consistent with the quality measures established under
3.23 subdivision 1.

3.24 (b) To the extent possible, the payment system must adjust for variations in patient
3.25 population in order to reduce incentives to health care providers to avoid high-risk patients
3.26 or populations, including those with risk factors related to race, ethnicity, language, country
3.27 of origin, and sociodemographic factors.

3.28 (c) The requirements of section 62Q.101 do not apply under this incentive payment
3.29 system.

3.30 Subd. 3. **Quality transparency.** (a) The commissioner shall establish standards for
3.31 measuring health outcomes, establish a system for risk adjusting quality measures, and issue
3.32 ~~annual~~ periodic public reports on trends in provider quality beginning July 1, 2010 at the
3.33 statewide, regional, and community levels.

4.1 (b) Effective July 1, 2017, the risk adjustment system established under this subdivision
 4.2 shall adjust for patient characteristics identified under subdivision 1, paragraph ~~(b)~~ (c), that
 4.3 are correlated with health disparities and have an impact on performance on cost and quality
 4.4 measures. The risk adjustment method may consist of reporting based on an
 4.5 actual-to-expected comparison that reflects the characteristics of the patient population
 4.6 served by the clinic or hospital. The commissioner shall implement this paragraph in
 4.7 coordination with any contracting entity retained under subdivision 4.

4.8 (c) ~~By January 1, 2010,~~ Physician clinics and hospitals shall submit standardized
 4.9 electronic information ~~on the outcomes and processes associated with patient care~~ for the
 4.10 identified statewide measures to the commissioner or the commissioner's designee. ~~In~~
 4.11 ~~addition to measures of care processes and outcomes, the report may include other measures~~
 4.12 ~~designated by the commissioner, including, but not limited to, care infrastructure and patient~~
 4.13 ~~satisfaction.~~ The commissioner shall ensure that any quality data reporting requirements
 4.14 established under this subdivision are not duplicative of publicly reported, communitywide
 4.15 quality reporting activities currently under way in Minnesota. The commissioner shall ensure
 4.16 that any quality data reporting requirements for physician clinics are aligned with the
 4.17 specifications and timelines for the selected measures as defined in subdivision 1, paragraph
 4.18 (a), clause (1). The commissioner may require reporting of additional data on race, ethnicity,
 4.19 preferred language, country of origin, or other sociodemographic factors as identified under
 4.20 subdivision 1, paragraph (c), and as required for stratification or risk adjustment. Nothing
 4.21 in this subdivision is intended to replace or duplicate current privately supported activities
 4.22 related to quality measurement and reporting in Minnesota.

4.23 Subd. 4. **Contracting.** The commissioner may contract with a private entity or consortium
 4.24 of private entities to complete the tasks in subdivisions 1 to 3. The private entity or
 4.25 consortium ~~must~~ may be nonprofit and have governance that includes representatives from
 4.26 the following stakeholder groups: health care providers, including providers serving high
 4.27 concentrations of patients and communities impacted by health disparities; health plan
 4.28 companies; consumers, including consumers representing groups who experience health
 4.29 disparities; employers or other health care purchasers; and state government. No one
 4.30 stakeholder group shall have a majority of the votes on any issue or hold extraordinary
 4.31 powers not granted to any other governance stakeholder.

4.32 Subd. 5. **Implementation.** (a) By January 1, 2010, health plan companies shall use the
 4.33 standardized quality set of measures established under this section and shall not require
 4.34 providers to use and report health plan company-specific quality and outcome measures.

5.1 (b) By July 1, 2010, the commissioner of management and budget shall implement this
5.2 incentive payment system for all participants in the state employee group insurance program.

5.3 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 256B.072, is amended to read:

5.4 **256B.072 PERFORMANCE REPORTING AND QUALITY IMPROVEMENT**
5.5 **SYSTEM.**

5.6 (a) The commissioner of human services shall establish a performance reporting system
5.7 for health care providers who provide health care services to public program recipients
5.8 covered under chapters 256B, 256D, and 256L, reporting separately for managed care and
5.9 fee-for-service recipients.

5.10 (b) The measures used for the performance reporting system for medical groups shall
5.11 include measures of care for asthma, diabetes, hypertension, and coronary artery disease
5.12 and measures of preventive care services. The measures used for the performance reporting
5.13 system for inpatient hospitals shall include measures of care for acute myocardial infarction,
5.14 heart failure, and pneumonia, and measures of care and prevention of surgical infections.
5.15 In the case of a medical group, the measures used shall be consistent with measures published
5.16 by nonprofit Minnesota or national organizations that produce and disseminate health care
5.17 quality measures or evidence-based health care guidelines. In the case of inpatient hospital
5.18 measures, the commissioner shall appoint the Minnesota Hospital Association and Stratis
5.19 Health to advise on the development of the performance measures to be used for hospital
5.20 reporting. To enable a consistent measurement process across the community, the
5.21 commissioner may use measures of care provided for patients in addition to those identified
5.22 in paragraph (a). The commissioner shall ensure collaboration with other health care reporting
5.23 organizations so that the measures described in this section are consistent with those reported
5.24 by those organizations and used by other purchasers in Minnesota.

5.25 (c) The commissioner may require providers to submit information in a required format
5.26 to a health care reporting organization or to cooperate with the information collection
5.27 procedures of that organization. The commissioner may collaborate with a reporting
5.28 organization to collect information reported and to prevent duplication of reporting.

5.29 (d) By October 1, 2007, and annually thereafter, the commissioner shall report through
5.30 a public Web site the results by medical groups and hospitals, where possible, of the measures
5.31 under this section, and shall compare the results by medical groups and hospitals for patients
5.32 enrolled in public programs to patients enrolled in private health plans. To achieve this
5.33 reporting, the commissioner may collaborate with a health care reporting organization that
5.34 operates a Web site suitable for this purpose.

- 6.1 (e) Performance measures must be stratified as provided under section 62U.02,
6.2 subdivision 1, paragraph ~~(b)~~ (c), and risk-adjusted as specified in section 62U.02, subdivision
6.3 3, paragraph (b).