

CMS Star Ratings and EQuIPP: What's New for 2017



Today's Speaker



Amy B. Scott, RPh
Pharmacy Quality Consultant
PQS

Agenda

- What is PQS, and EQuIPP?
 - EQuIPP Stats
 - Who Participates
- CMS Star Ratings 2017
 - Background & Review
 - Threshold changes from 2016
 - Graphs-rates are increasing
 - Benefits of Adherence Programs & Tools
- EQuIPP Updates & Review of Features
 - Individual Store Level Analyze Performance
 - Plan Patients, Insurance Mix table, QIP table
 - Outlier Review

What is PQS/EquIPP?

PQS—Pharmacy Quality Solutions

- PQS has key connections with the pharmacies that serve health plan membership
- EQuIPP is connected to:
 - More than 64,000 pharmacies throughout the U.S.
 - Approximately 58% of Medicare beneficiaries nationwide
 - Represents upwards of 90% of covered Medicare lives in several states
- Types of engagement programs:
 - Performance based networks
 - Quality based contracting arrangements
 - Pilot quality improvement efforts

What is EQuIPP ?

Electronic Quality Improvement Platform for Plans and Pharmacies

EQuIPP a multi-plan, multi-pharmacy platform

- Support collaboration of health plans, PBMs and pharmacies for Quality Improvement related to medication use
- Allows consistent, standardized assessment of community pharmacy performance on Part D stars and other quality measures
- Provides a neutral assessment of quality for trusted performance assessment and benchmarking by all parties
- EQuIPP lays the foundation for performance-based contracts and payment systems for pharmacy networks

Health plans & PBMs

- Access to performance dashboards that display their performance and relevant benchmarks on Star Ratings metrics across lines of business and across geographic regions
- Visibility into the performance of their pharmacy network

Pharmacies

- Access to performance dashboards that report scores and relevant benchmarks across the same key quality measures
- EQuIPP supports multi-tier views of a pharmacy organization's performance

Current Payer Partners:

HEALTH PLANS

- BCBS-MI
- Cigna-HealthSpring
- EnvisionRX (PDP)
- HealthFirst
- Humana
- IEHP
- UnitedHealthcare (MAPD)
- UPMC Health Plan
- Wellcare Medicaid

PBMs

- Caremark
- Express Scripts
- Prime Therapeutics

CVSC Performance Network Program:
SilverScript
Health Net
United American
Clearstone

WellCare
NEJE
Fallon

Pharmacy Advisor Commercial
Pharmacy Advisor Part D

Priority Health
Highmark BCBS
SCAN Health Plan

Emblem Health
Connecticare

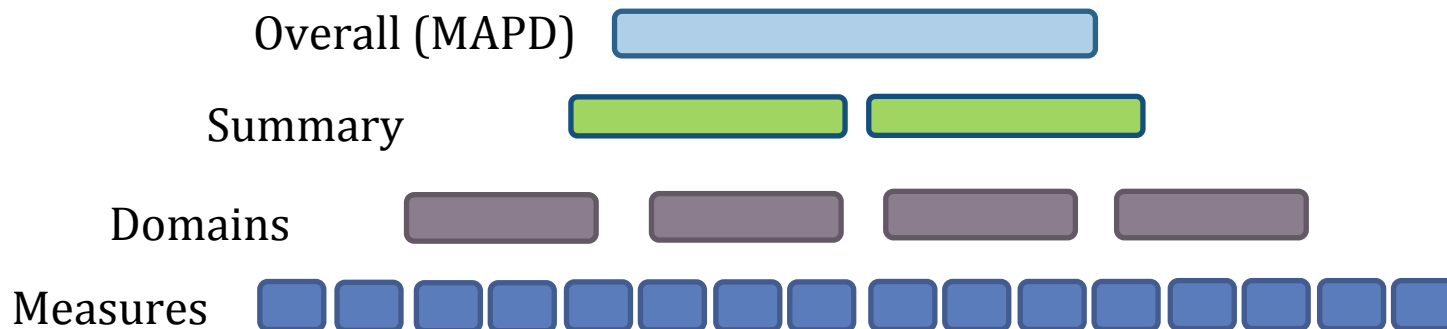
Florida Blue BCBS-NC
BCBS-AL
Horizon BCBS
BCBS-MN
Capital Health Plan

BCBS-AR
HCSC
BCBSTX - Medicaid
Alignment

CMS Star Ratings 2017

Medicare Star Ratings Overview

- Annual ratings of Medicare *plans* that are made available on Medicare Plan Finder and CMS website (began in 2008)
 - 2 year data lag; 2017 Ratings represent 2015 performance
- Ratings are displayed as 1 to 5 stars 
- Stars are calculated for each measure, as well as each domain, summary, and overall (applies to MA-PDs) level



[In 2017 - 32 Part C; 15 Part D]

Ratings of all Medicare plans can be found at:

<http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Prescription-Drug-Coverage/PrescriptionDrugCovGenIn/PerformanceData.html>

2017 CMS Stars: Part D

Medicare drug plans receive a summary rating on quality as well as four domains, and individual measures (15 individual measures)

- Five measures are from PQA (2017):

- 2 measures of medication safety or MTM

- High risk medication use in the elderly
 - Will move to display measure in 2018
 - Plans may continue to evaluate pharmacy on HRM in *some* performance programs
 - CMR Completion Rate
 - Added in 2016

- 3 measures of medication adherence (PDC)

- Non-insulin diabetes medications
 - Cholesterol medication (statins)
 - Blood pressure (renin-angiotensin system antagonists)

Due to the higher weighting of clinically-relevant measures, these PQA measures account for 42% of Part D summary ratings in 2017

Medicare Part D: Display Measures

- Display measures are *not* part of the Star Ratings, but are used to provide benchmarks and feedback to plans
- CMS also monitors display measures to assess plan performance; poor performance can lead to compliance actions by CMS
- Display measures (from PQA):
 - Drug-Drug Interactions
 - Excessive doses of oral diabetes medications
 - HIV antiretroviral medication adherence (*only in safety reports*)
 - Statin Use in Persons with Diabetes (*will remain a display measure thru 2018*)
 - *Slated to move to a scored measure in 2019*
 - *Plans are already evaluating pharmacy on SUD in some performance programs*

Potential Changes and New Metrics

2018 & Beyond

Antipsychotics evaluation

- Antipsychotic use in persons with dementia
 - Slated as 2018 Display measure

Opioid Overutilization

- Use of opioids from multiple providers or at high dosage in persons without cancer
 - Slated as 2019 Display measure

Drug-Drug Interactions

- Currently a display measure
 - Under evaluation, future changes pending

2016/2017 MAPD Star Thresholds

MAPD	2016/2017 5 Star	Change	2016/2017 4 Star	Change
Cholesterol PDC (Statins)	79% / 82%	+3 points	73% / 77%	+4 points
Diabetes PDC (Non-insulin)	82% / 83%	+1 point	75% / 79%	+2 points
Hypertension PDC (RASA)	81% / 83%	+2 points	77% / 79%	+2 points
HRM-High Risk Medication Use in Elderly	<6% / <3%	-3 points	<8% / <5%	-3 points
CMR Completion Rate	76% / 76.8%	+0.8 points	48.6% / 58.1%	+9.5 points

Source: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Analysis from Medicare Part C and D Star Rating Technical Notes 2016-2017.

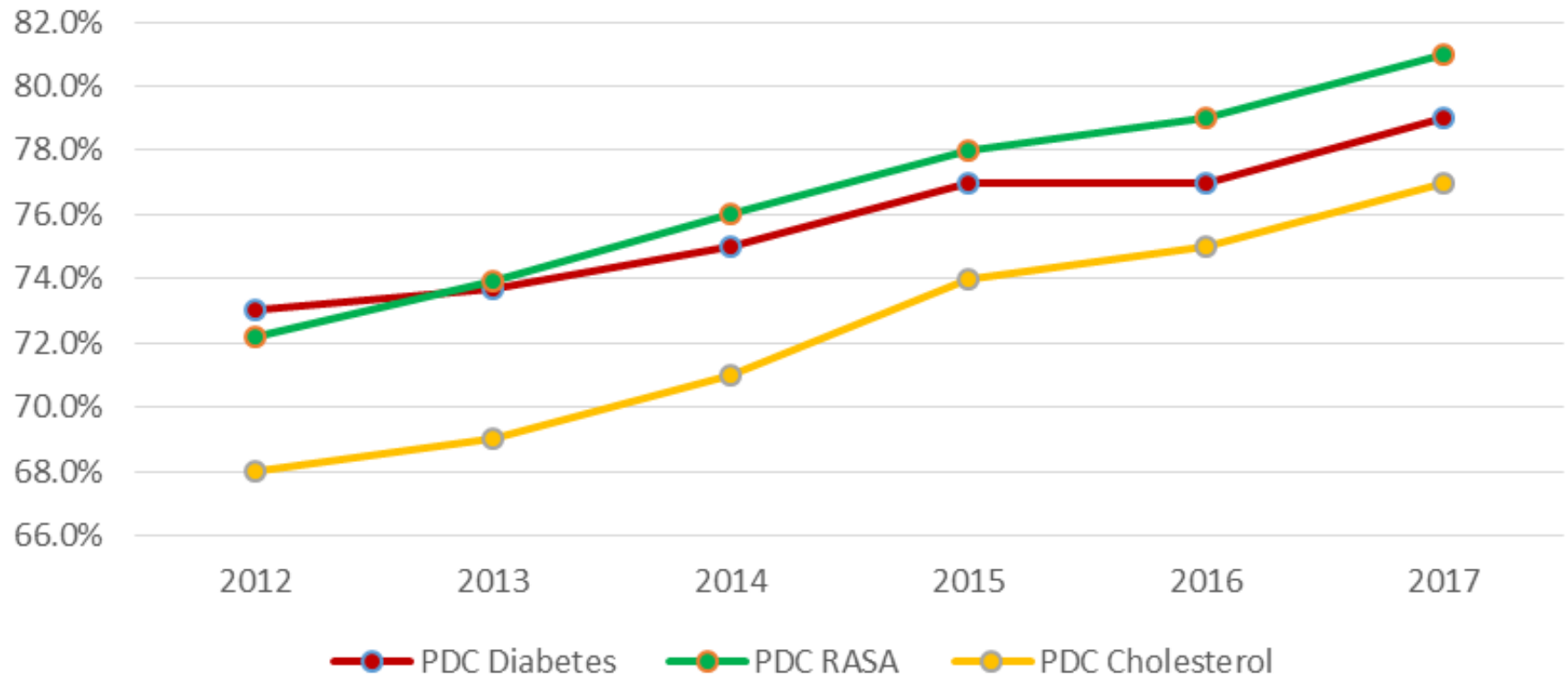
2016/2017 PDP Star Thresholds

PDP	2016/2017 5 Star	Change	2016/2017 4 Star	Change
Cholesterol PDC (Statins)	83% / 84%	+1 points	83% / 82%	-1 point
Diabetes PDC (Non-insulin)	95% / 86%	-9 points	83% / 82%	-1 point
Hypertension PDC (RASA)	85% / 85%	No change	82% / 83%	+1 point
HRM-High Risk Medication Use in Elderly	<6% / <3%	No change	<10% / <8%	-2 points
CMR Completion Rate	36.7% / 51.6%	+14.9 points	27.2% / 33.9%	+6.7 points

Source: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Analysis from Medicare Part C and D Star Rating Technical Notes 2016-2017.

MAPD Adherence Measure Averages

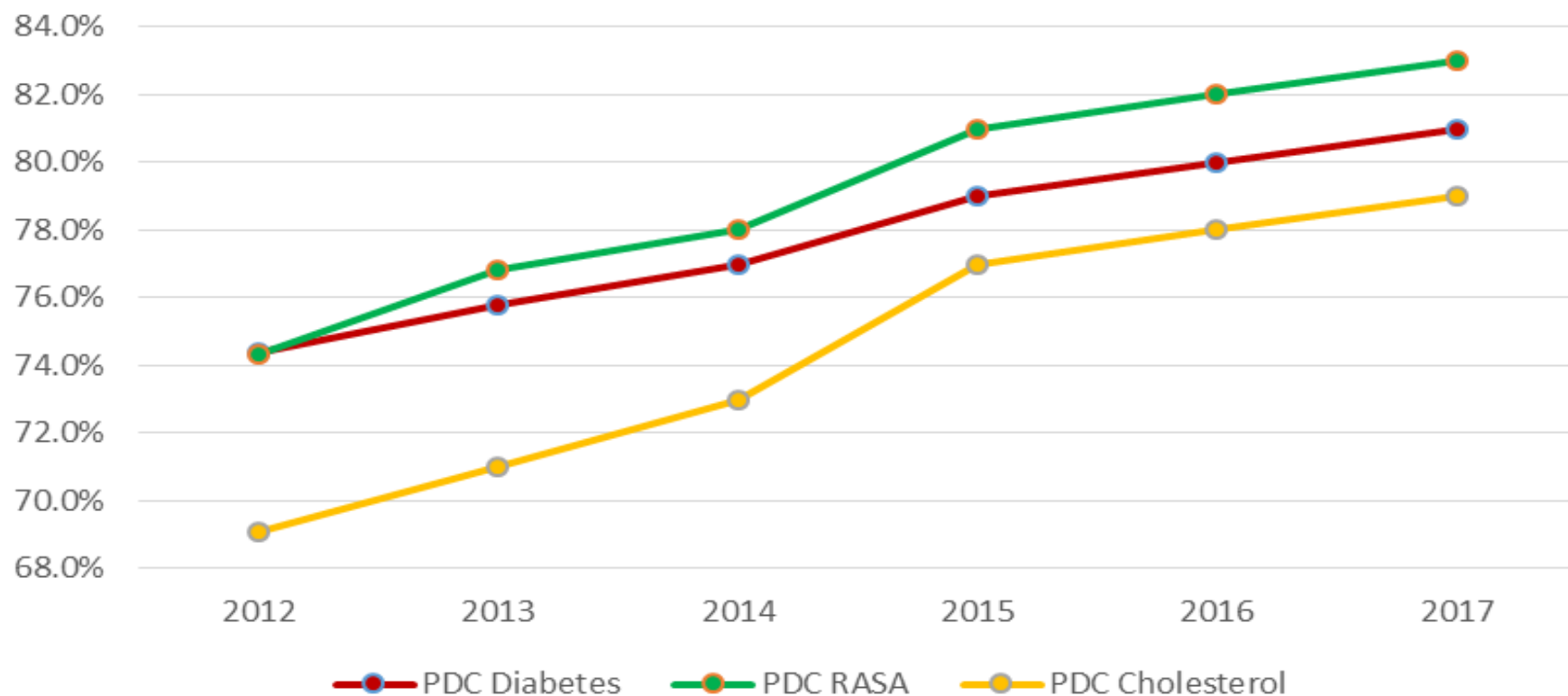
MAPD - Adherence Measure Averages



Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Analysis from Medicare Part C and D Star Rating Technical Notes 2012-2017.

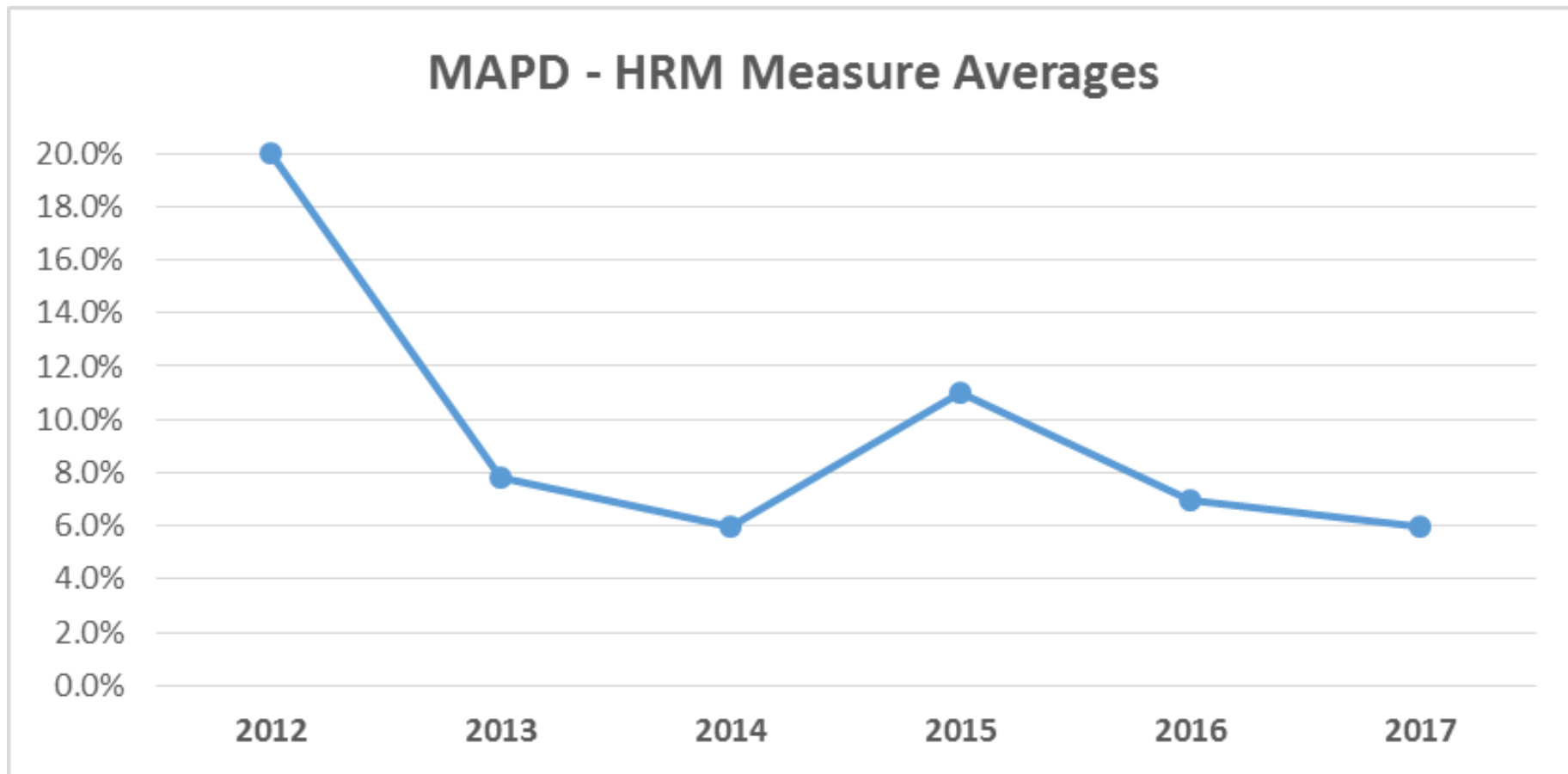
PDP Adherence Measure Averages

PDP - Adherence Measure Averages



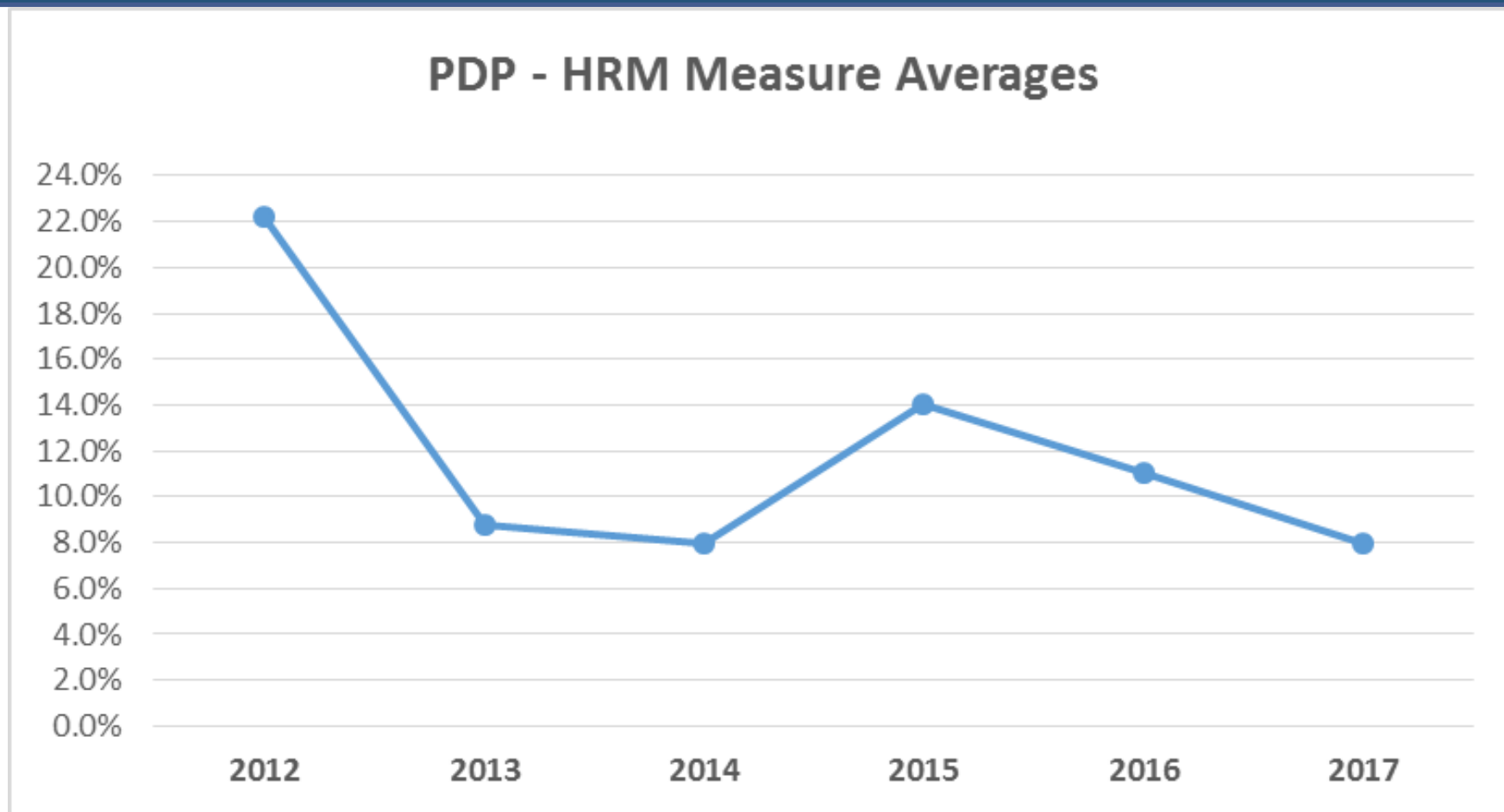
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Analysis from Medicare Part C and D Star Rating Technical Notes 2012-2017.

MAPD HRM Measure Averages



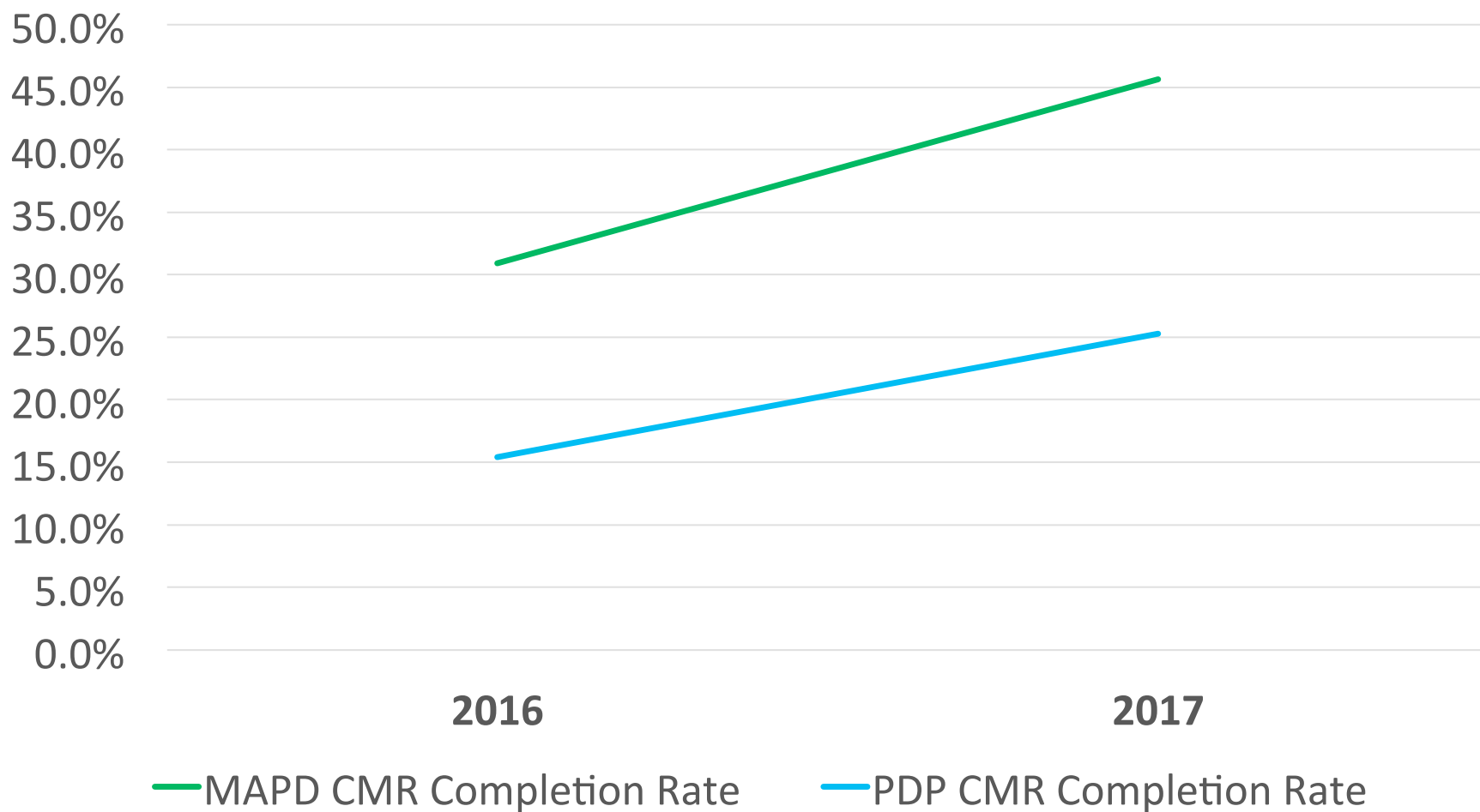
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Analysis from Medicare Part C and D Star Rating Technical Notes 2012-2017.

PDP HRM Measure Averages



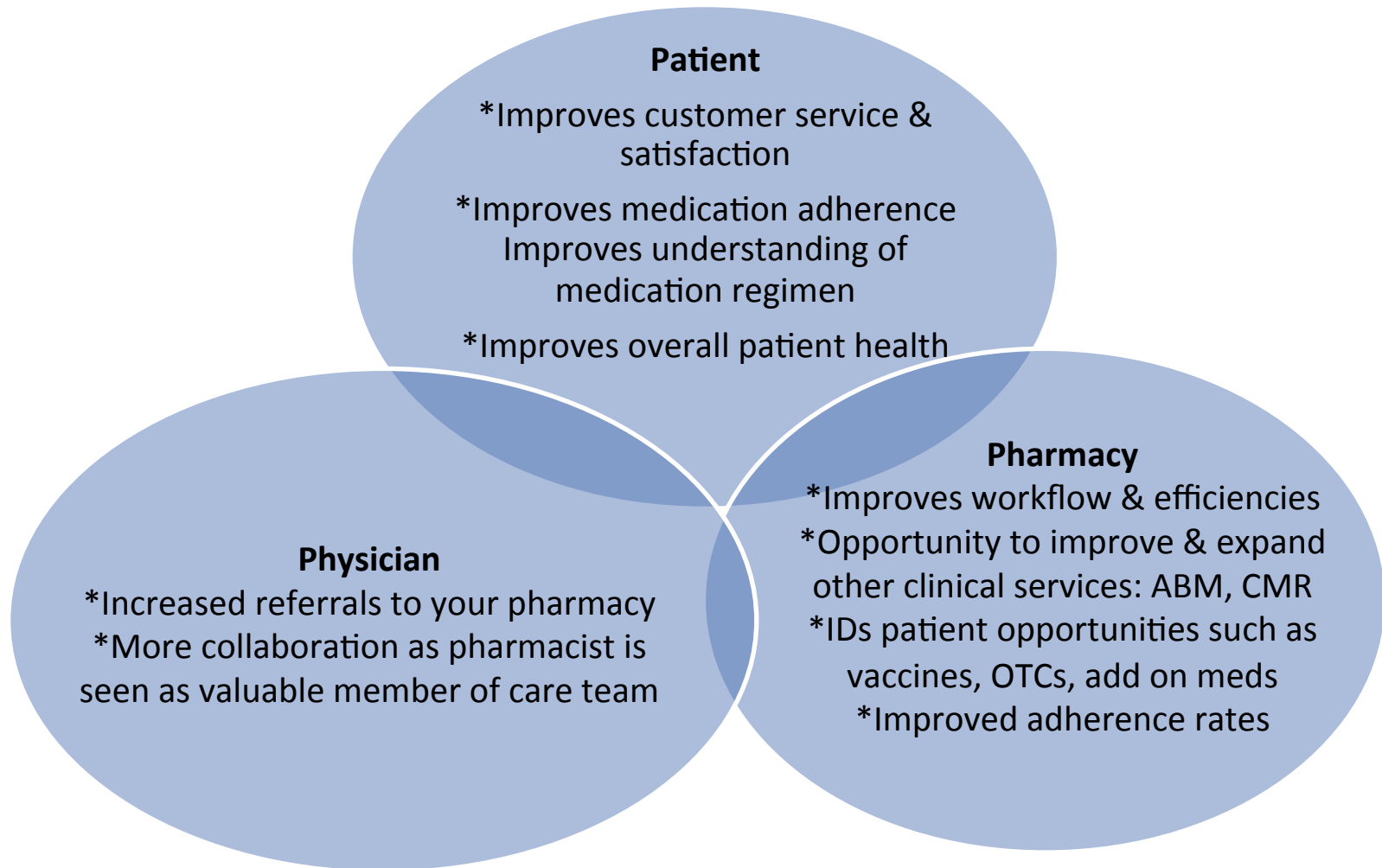
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Analysis from Medicare Part C and D Star Rating Technical Notes 2012-2017.

CMR Completion Rate Measure Averages



Benefits of Adherence Solutions

Med Sync, Refill Reminder, Dispense Packaging, Appointment
Based Patient Interactions, ...



EQuIPP Updates & Review of Features

Partnering for Quality: Focus on EQuIPP

Home

Performance Reports

Improvement Strategies

Profile

FAQ

Welcome to the Quality Improvement Platform for Plans and Pharmacies

I am a...

  Pharmacy Professional

 Pharmacy Organization

 Health & Drug Plan

News

A Worthy Read

An article in the January 16th edition of JAMA points to the importance of the Star Ratings for MA-PD plans. Authors from CMS examined the plan selections for new Medicare beneficiaries or for those that switched plans and found that plans with higher Star Ratings were more likely to be selected by beneficiaries. Check it out [here](#).

Learn About EQuIPP

EQuIPP is a performance information management platform that makes unbiased, benchmarked performance data available to both health plans and community pharmacy organizations.

EQuIPP brings a level of standardization to the measurement of the quality of medication use, and makes this information accessible and easy to understand. By doing so, EQuIPP facilitates an environment where prescription drug plans and community pharmacies can engage in strategic relationships to address improvements in the quality of medication use.

Our partners are provided the information they need to guide their quality improvement efforts and are connected to the right resources to help them continue to improve.



Login

Enter your username and password to access your performance reports and improve.

Username:

Password:

[Forgot password?](#)

LOGIN

EQuIPP Updates

2017 CMS Star Ratings Thresholds

- Goal set updated October 2016 to reflect 2017 CMS thresholds
- Be sure to challenge yourself by resetting the goal to Top 20% Rank goal at least once/month as program goals differ

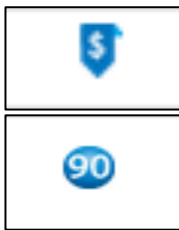
QIP Table Expansion

- As additional payers focus on Performance, more Program information is displayed in the Quality Improvement Program table
- Be sure to hover over the (?) icon for details about that particular program
 - QIP displays a pharmacy's current performance for each health plan that has elected to share their plan-specific performance.
 - Includes program-specific goals for each measure and a percentile rank to help give perspective to the pharmacy's performance for each health plan or program

EQuIPP Updates

Outlier Enhancements & Expansion

- Jan 2017 Outliers became available for specific CVS/Caremark Programs: [Silverscript](#), [Wellcare](#), [New England Joint Enterprise](#), [Northern Plains Alliance](#), [United American](#), [BCBS of Arizona](#), [Fallon & HealthNet](#)
- Designation Enhancements: Be sure to hover over the (?) icon for more details
 - Various designations help identify actionable opportunities of key characteristics for patient outliers:



Low Income Subsidy

90 Day Opportunity



Individual PDC rates for each patient now display

Last Name	First Name	Date of Birth	Designations (?)	Provided By	Type	PDC Rate	Status	Action
				--	Outlier	62.93%	Not Started	
					Outlier	28.7%	Not Started	
					Outlier	63.56%	Not Started	

- High Risk Medication Outliers: in order to see drug name & dose hover over mortar & pestle

Last Name	First Name	Date of Birth	Designations (?)	Provided By	Type	Drug Name	Status	Action
					Outlier		Not Started	
					Outlier		Not Started	

Individual Store Level View: Analyze Performance

Pharmacy Report

Goal: **5-star** ▼

Print this Report

Challenge your team-raise the bar!
Reset the Goal to Top 20%

HOW DO I IMPROVE?

Performance Data Date Range:

MAY 2016 - OCT 2016 ▼

View as: **6-Month Trend** Year-to-Date Immunization ?

Measure Name ▲	Trend	Pharmacy		Versus Goal		Versus Others	
		# of Patients	Performance Score ?	Goal	Gap	Organization Average ?	State Average ?
Cholesterol PDC ?		219	93.6% ANALYZE PERFORMANCE	82% ↑ HIGHER IS BETTER	✓ OUTLIERS	86%	85.8%
Diabetes PDC ?		68	95.5% ANALYZE PERFORMANCE	83% ↑ HIGHER IS BETTER	✓	85.9%	85.6%
High-risk Medications ?		367	5.7% ANALYZE PERFORMANCE	3% ↓ LOWER IS BETTER	2.7% OUTLIERS	4.8%	6.5%
RASA PDC ?		231	92.2% ANALYZE PERFORMANCE	83% ↑ HIGHER IS BETTER	✓ OUTLIERS	87.7%	87.9%
Statin Use in Diabetes ?		82	71.9% ANALYZE PERFORMANCE	79.1% ↑ HIGHER IS BETTER	7.2% OUTLIERS	71.6%	66.8%

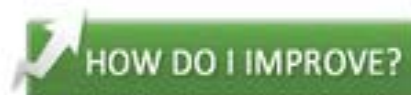
Individual Store Level: Analyze Performance View (Part 1)

Cholesterol PDC

Goal: **5-star**

↑ HIGHER IS BETTER

Print this Report



Performance Data Date Range:

AUG 2015 - JAN 2016

Pharmacy Versus Goal

of Patients

174

Performance Score

89%

Goal

79%

Pharmacy Versus Others

Organization Average

84.8%

State Average

85.3%

All Equipp Average

86.6%

Run Chart

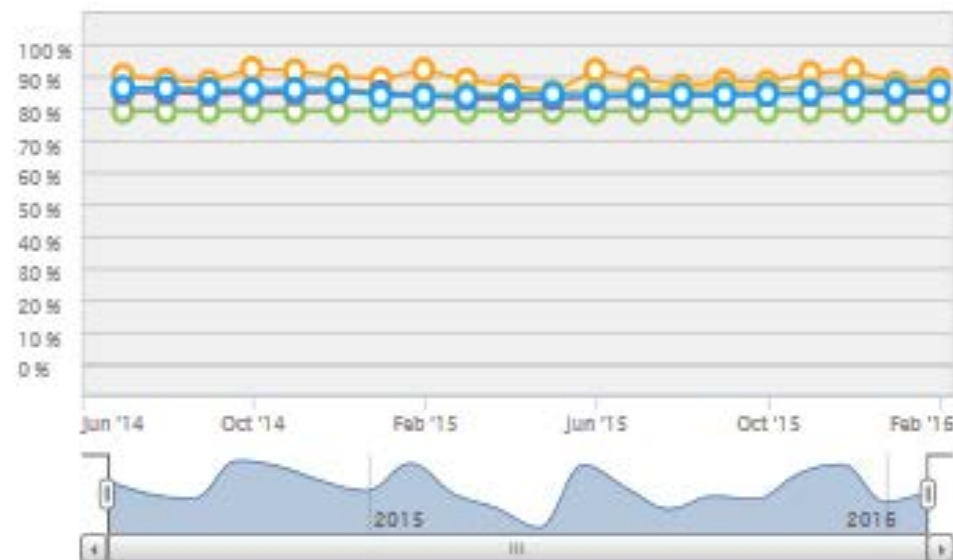
Performance
Score

Goal

Organization
Average

State
Average

All Equipp
Average



Individual Store Level: Analyze Performance View (Part 2)

Plan Patients (174)

Health Plan	Patients
Health Plan 1	94
Health Plan 2	64
Health Plan 3	10
Health Plan 4	6

Insurance Mix Report

Health Plan	# of Patients	Pharmacy	Versus Goal	Gap	Versus Others
		Performance Score	Organization Average		
Medicare	166	89.1%	79%	✓	85%
Medicare PDP	116	87%	83%	✓	85.8%
Marketplace	8	87.5%	79%	✓	84.7%
Medicare Advantage	50	94%	79%	✓	83.1%

Quality Improvement Programs ?

Program Name	# of Patients	Pharmacy	Program Goal	Gap	Percentile Rank
		Performance Score			
Program A	90	90%	83%	✓	55th
Program B	8	87.5%	83%	✓	N/A
Program C	4	75%	83%	8%	N/A
Program D	1	100%	83%	✓	N/A
Program E	1	0%	91%	91%	N/A

View All

QIP Table Drill Down

1	Quality Improvement Programs ?	3	4	5	6	7
2	Program Name	# of Patients	Pharmacy	Program Goal	Gap	Percentile Rank
Performance Score						
Program A	?	62	91.9%	85%	✓	61st
Program B		17	88.2%	85%	✓	29th
Program C		5	100%	81%	✓	N/A
Program D		1	0%	73%	73%	N/A

N/A –percentile rank not calculated as there are too few patients for this quality measure for program displayed

1. Program Name-name of Quality Improvement or P4P program at contract level
2. ? Hover over this icon for program detail including plan sponsor
3. # of Patients-total number of patients in the program for your pharmacy
4. Performance Score-your pharmacy's performance score for specified program
 - Green- maximum program performance attained
 - Gray-minimum program performance attained, room for improvement exists
 - Red- minimum program performance for program not met
5. Program Goal-goals specific to that program and the measure displayed
6. Gap-percentage point from goal / ☒ goal is met
7. Percentile Rank-gives an estimate of how your pharmacy compares to others in program/plan- must have a minimum of 10 patients to get a ranking

Individual Store Level View: Outliers

Pharmacy Report

Goal: **5-star**

Print this Report

HOW DO I IMPROVE?

Performance Data Date Range:

MAY 2016 - OCT 2016

View as: **6-Month Trend** Year-to-Date Immunization

Measure	Trend	Pharmacy		Versus Goal		Versus Others	
		# of Patients	Performance Score	Goal	Gap	Organization Average	State Average
Cholesterol PDC		219	93.6% 	82% ↑ HIGHER IS BETTER	✓ 	86%	85.8%
Diabetes PDC		68	95.5% 	83% ↑ HIGHER IS BETTER	✓ 	85.9%	85.6%
High-risk Medications		367	5.7% 	3% ↓ LOWER IS BETTER	2.7% 	4.8%	6.5%
RASA PDC		231	92.2% 	83% ↑ HIGHER IS BETTER	✓ 	87.7%	87.9%
Statin Use in Diabetes		82	71.9% 	79.1% ↑ HIGHER IS BETTER	7.2% 	71.6%	66.8%

Outlier Types

➤ **Outlier**

- These are the standard outliers that represent members that are adversely impacting individual measure performance based upon calculations from the data provided to EQuIPP during the given measurement data period.
 - **PDC Rate**-Individual/personal PDC rates are displayed for every patient outlier for each adherence measure. Individual PDC gives information that allows one to create various interventions tailored to the patients' level of adherence.

➤ **Late Refill**

- This is a new outlier type as of early 2017. The outlier type will display as “Late Refill” *not* “Outlier” as these patients may not yet be outliers. The data provider sharing this data is alerting the pharmacy that the patient was or is late to refill their medication. A Health plan may define a late refill anywhere from 11 to 17 days past due.

➤ **First Fill**

- These outliers apply *only* to the High Risk Medication (HRM) measure and represent members who have filled one qualifying high risk medication (medication name & dose is also listed). These outliers represent a potential opportunity to prevent a second fill of the medication. These outliers may be updated on a more frequent basis, as often as daily or weekly, depending on the data provider.

In most cases, PQS calculates outlier on a monthly basis. However, in some instances the data provider shares the outlier information directly. In such cases, they may be using a more recent time frame to identify patient outliers, therefore, some patient outliers may not reflect the performance data date range being displayed and may be updated as often as daily or weekly.

PDC Outlier Detail -available only at store level



Patient Outliers for Cholesterol PDC

Download this Report

Performance Data Date Range: JUN 2016 - NOV 2016

Show: **All Patients**

Patient								
Last Name	First Name	Date of Birth	Designations	Provided By	Type	PDC Rate	Status	Action
					Outlier	61.29%	Not Started	
					Outlier	53.03%	Not Started	
					Outlier	21.92%	Not Started	
					Outlier	38.51%	Not Started	
					Outlier	57.76%	Not Started	

Designations - additional patient level information to help identify actionable opportunities of key characteristics for patient outliers. Hover over the to learn what each symbol means.

Individual Patient PDC Rate

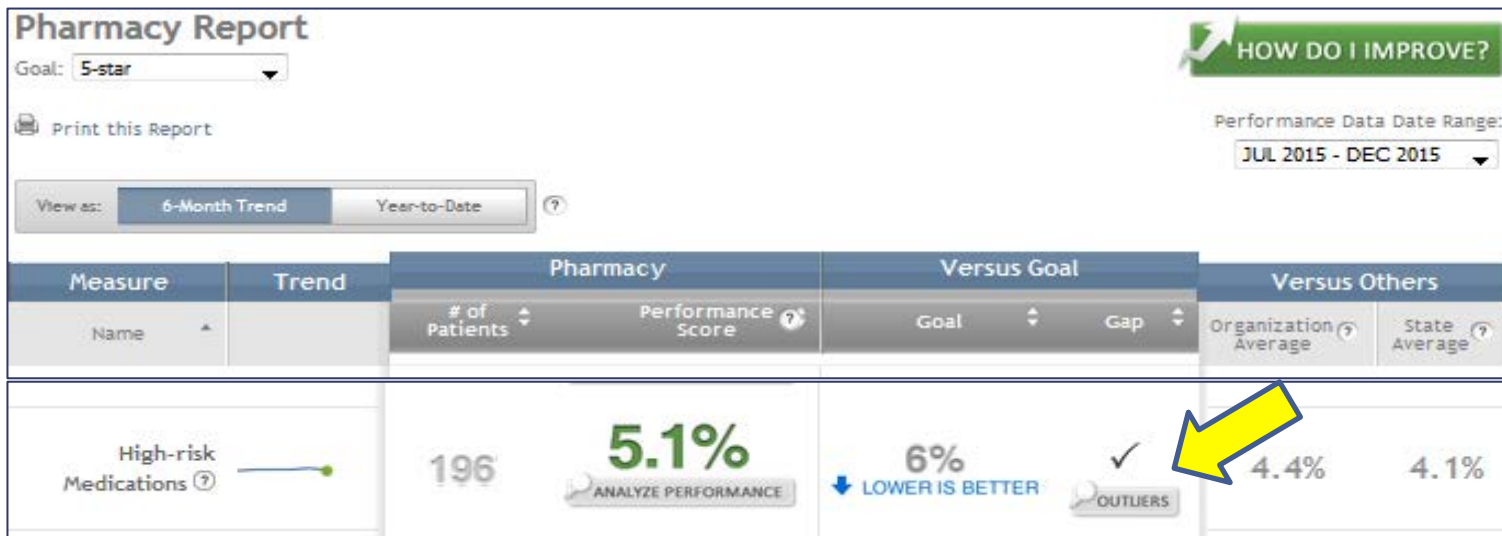
Designations



Provides additional patient-level information to help identify actionable opportunities or key characteristics associated with Patient Outlier records. Look for these designations under the designation column on the outlier display

-  **Low Income Subsidy Designation** Provided so pharmacies can easily identify unique member populations within the health plan who are eligible for a Low Income Subsidy. The designation will help identify that the member may be eligible for additional services or reduced co-pays or require advanced clinical support
-  **90 Day Outlier Designation** Available for PDC measures only. Will highlight non-adherent patients where the most recent fill for a medication applicable to the PDC measure is less than a 60 day supply. Patient Outliers for the PDC measures with the 90 Day Opportunity designation can be sorted within the pharmacy Patient Outlier table allowing for pharmacy users to quickly bring all 90 Day Opportunities to the top of their case list
-  **No Impact Designation** whereby the patient cannot achieve a proportion of days covered of at least 80% with the days remaining within the calendar year. The “No Impact” outlier designation shall bear a clear indication to pharmacies to help understand which patients are negatively impacting performance scores. This represents patients who do not have the potential to become adherent within the current calendar year.
-  **Actionable Impact Designation** whereby the patient can achieve a proportion of days covered of at least 80% or greater with the days remaining within the calendar year. The “Actionable Impact” outlier designation shall bear a clear indication to pharmacies to help understand which patients are currently negatively impacting performance scores but have the potential to become adherent within the current calendar year

HRM Outlier Detail -available only at store level



Patient Outliers for High-risk Medications

Download this Report

Performance Data Date Range:

JUN 2016 - NOV 2016

Show: **All Patients**

Note different outlier designations

Hover over mortar & pestle icon for drug name & dose to appear

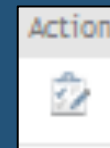
Patient									
Last Name	First Name	Date of Birth	Designations	Provided By	Type	Drug Name	Status	Action	
					Outlier		Not Started		
					First Fill		Not Started		
					Outlier		Not Started		

Note: A yellow arrow points to the 'First Fill' row, and another yellow arrow points to the mortar & pestle icon in the 'Drug Name' column.

First Fill Type: These outliers apply only to the High Risk Medication (HRM) measure. They represent members who have filled *one* qualifying high risk medication. These outliers represent a potential opportunity to prevent a second fill of the medication.

These outliers may be updated on a more frequent basis such as daily or weekly, depending on the data provider

“Action” Documentation



The Outliers feature contains a documentation page that pharmacies can use to track activities.

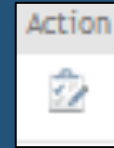
- *Note* - this does *not* impact performance scores but is a way for pharmacies to track these items over a period of time.
- This documentation is *not* tied to any form of payment or transaction and is intended to simply support good patient management practices in an outcomes-focused way.
- Meant to help multiple pharmacy team members working in the same location to coordinate and track basic patient management activities that take place for the listed Outliers

The EQuIPP user accessing the Outlier feature will have the opportunity to document the activity and outcomes associated with their management of the outlier patient. This feature is accessed by clicking on this icon in the activity column.

EQuIPP performance scores only change based on applicable prescription drug claims during the measurement period evaluated.

- Typically, when a pharmacy initiates patient care services to address adherence, a patient may remain on the outlier list for several months.
- While an action was taken as an initial step, pharmacies should review potential follow-up with these patients in the coming months.

“Action” Documentation



3 Categories of Actions:

1. Action: Includes the actions taken by a pharmacy staff to address the outlier (calling physicians, reviewing medication history, etc.)

Multiple actions can be selected

2. Primary Barrier: Includes the primary reasons that may be impacting the outcome of the intervention activities (Cost, unable to contact the patient or MD, etc.)

Only one primary barrier can be selected

3. Outcome: Includes the result, as identified by the pharmacy staff, of the actions taken to address the patient's issue

Only one outcome can be selected

Status column

- The default Status for a new patient outlier is “Not Started”
- Once an Action is documented, the status will automatically change to “In Progress”.
- Once an Outcome is documented, the status will automatically change to “Completed” and the date of the completed activity will display.

The response options for Action, Primary Barrier, and Outcome are customized for each measure and the documentation is designed to be completed in 20 seconds or less



 [Download this Report](#)

Last Name

First Name

Action (select all that apply)

- ☐ Medication history check
- ☐ Patient contact attempted
- ☐ Patient consulted
- ☐ Prescriber consulted
- ☐ Adherence intervention, other

Primary Barrier (select one)

- ☐ Unable to contact patient
- ☐ Unable to identify/contact prescriber
- ☐ Previous fill identified, false positive
- ☐ Patient, medication is not a priority/not important
- ☐ Patient, cost
- ☐ Patient, fear of side effects
- ☐ Patient, forgetfulness

Outcome (select one)

- ☐ No change
- ☐ Filled/Refilled existing prescription
- ☐ Enrolled patient in adherence program
- ☐ Discontinued, contraindication
- ☐ Discontinued, not tolerated
- ☐ Previous fill through other payer
- ☐ Previous fill through cash program
- ☐ Recommended alternative, new Rx filled
- ☐ Recommended alternative, Not accepted by prescriber
- ☐ Contacted prescriber to discuss, No change at this time
- ☐ Not Applicable

[Clear Form](#)

Cancel

SUBMIT

VIEWING AS

Performance Data Date Range:

APR 2015 - SEP 2015

Show: All Patients ▼

Type

Drug Name

Status

Action

Not Started

Not Started

Not Started

Not Started

Not Started



Not Started

Not Started

Not Started



Not Started

Not Started

Individual Pharmacy YTD

Pharmacy Report

Goal: **5-star**

Print this Report

HOW DO I IMPROVE?

Performance Data Date Range:

JAN 2016 - NOV 2016

View as: **6-Month Trend** **Year-to-Date** Immunization

*The only way to review CVS/Caremark CMR rate is thru YTD View

Measure Name	Trend	Pharmacy		Versus Goal		Versus Others	
		# of Patients	Performance Score	Goal	Gap	Organization Average	State Average
Cholesterol PDC		238	87.8% ANALYZE PERFORMANCE	82% ↑ HIGHER IS BETTER	✓ OUTLIERS	77.6%	77.5%
CVS/caremark CMR Completion Rate		17	82.3% ANALYZE PERFORMANCE	76.8% ↑ HIGHER IS BETTER	✓ OUTLIERS	23.6%	29.3%
Diabetes PDC		76	89.4% ANALYZE PERFORMANCE	83% ↑ HIGHER IS BETTER	✓ OUTLIERS	79.1%	79.1%
High-risk Medications		381	7% ANALYZE PERFORMANCE	3% ↓ LOWER IS BETTER	4% OUTLIERS	6.2%	8.4%
RASA PDC		256	87.8% ANALYZE PERFORMANCE	83% ↑ HIGHER IS BETTER	✓ OUTLIERS	80.2%	81%
Statin Use in Diabetes		84	71.4% ANALYZE PERFORMANCE	79.2% ↑ HIGHER IS BETTER	7.8% OUTLIERS	73.7%	68.6%

Year to Date (YTD) Details and Differences

- View as YTD to review CVS/Caremark CMR completion rate
- Most performance scores are *further* from the stated goals when looking at YTD vs 6-Month rolling averages
- Patients can drop out of the 6-month rolling data and still be in the YTD data for calculations.
- Starting mid year 2017 a YTD view will be available that reflects 2017 performance
 - Track both 6 month trends and YTD standing
- Review program contracts to understand how a plan or PBM is looking at performance metrics
 - Time Frame
 - Specific goals for that program

Home

Performance Reports

Improvement Strategies

Profile

FAQ

Improvement Strategies and Resources

While we tend to think of quality improvement activities as targeted interventions, there are a wide variety of skills, tactics, and resources that are broadly applicable when seeking to engage patients and encourage therapeutic or behavioral changes.



Quality Improvement Concepts & Resources

The topics in this section will help you better understand the drivers of pharmacy-based quality improvement efforts, develop your patient engagement skills, and gain insight into the development of quality improvement strategies.

[READ MORE](#)



Medication Adherence

Medication adherence is an essential health behavior. It taps into patients' most closely held values and beliefs about their health and wellbeing. Pharmacists' knowledge and accessibility position them well for working with patients through such complex issues.

Further hone your patient engagement skills, access targeted patient education resources and more in this section.

[READ MORE](#)



Patient Safety

Getting the right drug to the right person at the right time has long been the mantra of practicing pharmacists everywhere. Both safe dispensing and safe use are critical to the best outcomes for your patients.

This section links you to specific resources that support you in addressing the patient safety measures housed within the **EQulPP** platform.

[READ MORE](#)

This area should be used as your first line of defense when a question regarding the information on your dashboard arises. The FAQ page is always being updated with new information, definitions, examples and updated tutorials to assure that users understand the information displayed on the performance report.



Support

For direct user support [Click Here](#). Please complete the brief form and we will promptly address your issue. You may also send an e-mail to support@equipp.org.

For password resets, site performance issues, and other Technical Support, please click on the "Support" link in the upper right hand corner of the page.

Tutorials

[EquIPP 2015 - 4th Quarter New Features!](#) This tutorial provides an overview of several updates that have occurred in your EquIPP dashboard in late 2015. This includes: updates to the "Insurance Mix Table", addition of the "Quality Improvement Programs" table and the "Outliers" feature available in the dashboard.

[EquIPP Overview - June 2016](#)

We have several videos listed below that focus on targeted portions of the EquIPP dashboard. Each video contains about six minutes of content.

[EquIPP Outliers](#)

[EquIPP Resources and Support - June 2016](#)

Why you should use EquIPP

[Key Reasons to use EquIPP](#)

EquIPP Monthly Update - December 2016

Performance Data Date Range

The latest dataset was made available in EquIPP as of Thursday, December 15th. This dataset now includes performance information based off of prescription drug claims through October 31, 2016.

Immunization reporting

You may notice that an additional Immunization tab has been added to the dashboard. PQS is working on new pilot initiatives regarding the management of immunization measures that are being tested with a limited group of pharmacies and plans at this time. We will be looking forward to hosting these new measures in 2017!

Rolling Six-Month Performance and Year-to-Date (YTD) Performance Information

The standard reporting available in EquIPP evaluates performance based on prescription drug claims activity from May 1, 2016 to October 31, 2016. When logging into your performance dashboard this will be the default reporting that populates in your dashboard.

This December 2016 refresh does also provide 2016 Year-To-Date performance information. Please note that the YTD measurement period includes prescription drug claims data from Jan 1, 2016 to October 31, 2016, a ten - month evaluation of performance data. To better understand quality performance measure calculations and the impact of measurement periods, we have added two links in the FAQ tab below which will provide you descriptions and examples of calculations. Scroll down to the "How are the performance measures calculated?" section for more information.

Be “EQuIPP”ed

Tips to Remember

- Currently, Pharmacies do not get a STAR rating, it is the Health Plans that are rated by CMS. However, pharmacies may be evaluated by plans.
- EQuIPP is refreshed with new plan data mid-month, every month
- Any text written in [blue](#) is a link to more information
- Hover over  for more detailed information
- “OUTLIERS” button will only display at the individual pharmacy level *if* the pharmacy has patients that fall under the health plans that have chosen to share this level of detail
- Refer to the FAQ tab for any question you may have, it is most likely answered here:

- Refer to the Improvement Strategies Tab on EQuIPP for quality improvement tools
 - [HRM & SUD fax letter for physicians and patients](#)
 - [Patient Adherence Handouts](#)

Know your numbers and where your pharmacy stands!!!

Summary

Quality metrics are driving action amongst health plans and PBMs

Pharmacies are being evaluated NOW on quality measures related to Part D stars.

- A growing number of prescription drug plans are implementing performance-based incentives for network pharmacies:
 - Pay-for-performance models that include bonus payments to top- performing pharmacies
 - Preferred networks that include star-performance as a criterion for inclusion as a preferred pharmacy
- Pharmacies need to track their quality to compete in a value-based contracting environment.
 - Now is the time to start assessing whether your pharmacy is meeting quality goals and how you rank compared to peers
- EQuIPP continues to expand the number of plans and pharmacies who use this platform as a “neutral intermediary” for calculation of pharmacy quality scores.

Where is this going?

- As the pressure builds on Medicare plans to improve Star Ratings, they are looking to many different options for improving medication adherence and safety.
 - They are looking to Community Pharmacy for engagement
 - Health plans are using different techniques to engage with their pharmacy networks
 - New programs are evolving
 - QBN – Quality Based Networks
 - P4P – Pay for Performance programs
 - Value Based Contracting

Stay Tuned!!!



Amy B. Scott, RPh
Pharmacy Quality Consultant
ascott@pharmacyquality.com

Thank You



- Please complete our survey:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/equipp315>
- Goodneighborpharmacyevents.com
- ThoughtSpot 2017
 - July 19-22
 - Mandalay Bay, Las Vegas
 - Thoughtspot2017.com



AmerisourceBergen®

Where knowledge,
reach and partnership
shape healthcare delivery.

References

- American College of Preventive Medicine 2011
- Haynes RB. Interventions for helping patients to follow prescriptions for medications. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, 2001, Issue 1, 2001.
<http://www.talkaboutrx.org>
- World Health Organization
- Osterberg L, Blaschke T. Adherence to medication. N Engl J Med. 2005
- Peterson AM, Takiya L, Finley R. Meta-analysis of trials of interventions to improve medication adherence. Am J Health Syst Pharm. 2003; 60: 657–665. [[PubMed](#)]
- The Task Force for Compliance. Noncompliance with medications: an economic tragedy with important implications for health care reform. Baltimore, MD; 1993
- www.scriptyourfuture.org