

Building the Academy's Quality Initiatives

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Abstract

Relevance: The Quality Management Committee (QMC) recognized the need of paralleling its efforts with major players in the National Quality arena to educate and empower its membership to be healthcare quality leaders in all delivery and payment models.

Background: After completing an environmental scan in August 2013, the QMC charged a Quality Strategies Taskforce to identify and prioritize initiatives of quality measurement, reporting, and improvement. Also to identify the Academy's role in quality measures development and create resources for increase awareness of policies, improvement tools, performance measurement and reporting.

Methods: A 'think tank' style meeting allowed for idea exchange. Taskforce members were provided discussion questions to facilitate quality strategy conversation, needs and direction. Six quality strategies domains were presented as guiding criteria: Culture Shift within Organization; Data Management / Benchmarking; Process Improvements; Quality / Performance Measurements; Resources / Education Materials and; What's the Academy plan?

Results: Agreement centered on RDN knowledge enhancement and expansion and essential participation in quality teams and initiatives. The Academy must create awareness on improvement tools, regulation changes, and developing electronic measures to position RDNs in meeting the HHS and CMS quality strategy.

Conclusion: Pursue, as a Steward, National Quality Forum endorsed measures. Educate and train organization RDNs on national quality opportunities. Form a network of quality improvement experts from DPGs and RDN practitioners employed in quality focus areas.

Taskforce Members:

Susan Smith, MBA RDN LD NHA FAND - Co-Chair • Tamie Frable-Newman, MS RD LDN - Co-Chair • Kessey Kieselhorst, MPA RD LDN CDE CPHQ • Rita Johnson, PhD RD CSSD LDN FADA FAND • Sandra McNeil, MA RD CDN FADA • Melissa Church, MS RD LD • Pauline Williams, PhD MPA RDN CD • Valaree Williams, MS RD CSO LDN • Sharon McCauley, MS MBA RDN LDN FADA FAND Director, Quality Management, Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

Objectives

The Taskforce is to gather, assess and identify information on initiatives that lead to a culture of change within the profession, while collaborating with key stakeholders on a strategy in the areas of quality improvement, performance improvement and measurement.

The Taskforce is to determine select initiatives devising a recommendation plan that rewards and promotes the profession of nutrition and dietetics and its credentialed nutrition and dietetics practitioners – RDNs and DTRs in various food and nutrition practice settings and service delivery.

Call to Action

The Quality Strategies Taskforce was formed as a result of a motion of QMC Meeting in August 2013, 'Move to develop a Taskforce to determine the charge of the Quality Strategy Workgroup'.

Methods

A total of six domains of quality strategies were presented at the December 2013 Quality Strategies Taskforce meeting. Taskforce members were provided with discussion questions to facilitate the conversation of quality strategy needs and direction for the Academy. The meeting was conducted in a 'think tank' style to allow for exchange of ideas.

The six domains of quality strategies presented were:

1. Culture Shift within Organization
2. Data Management / Benchmarking
3. Process Improvements
4. Quality / Performance Measurements
5. What's the Academy plan?
6. Resources / Education Materials

The challenge for the Academy is to address the increased focus on quality and take steps so that the nutrition and dietetics practitioner is not left behind due to missed opportunity.



Results

Recommendation:

The Taskforce members agreed:

- 1) Imperative for RDNs to grow, enhance and expand their knowledge base, be a part of the quality team and quality initiatives.
- 2) RDNs need to be inclusive, opportunistic and visible. RDNs are not aware of the changes in regulation and quality improvement tools.
- 3) The Academy needs to raise the bar and create awareness on quality improvement tools, policies and regulations that are driving the changes in quality environment in the nutrition and dietetics profession.
- 4) The Academy needs to develop quality measures in order to recognize that missed opportunities or lack of national quality measures for food, nutrition and dietetics will affect the profession in terms of job security, return on investment and viability of the organization.

Presentation:

- The ideas were presented at the January 2014 QMC meeting. A presentation educating QMC on national quality initiatives, changes in healthcare quality measure metrics, meeting the evolving need of our practitioners was presented.
- QMC vetted and approved the Goals, Strategies and Initiatives for Quality Strategies document.

Moving Forward:

- Send memo to HLT along with Goals, Strategies, Initiatives document; Executive Summary; and three (3) priorities selected from the document initiatives.
- QMC agreed that Quality Management Staff needs to move forward with select project initiatives.
- QM Staff to assess the steps needed to start the initiatives suggested by QMC.

