

November 18, 2020

To all CQI participants,

COVID-19 cases are surging again across the state and hospitals once again are facing challenges. We are keenly aware of the concerns Michigan hospitals face about having the necessary nursing capabilities to deal with this surge in patients. Since there are many nurses currently engaged in CQI data abstraction activities, we understand some participating sites may need to shift staffing resources to manage this looming outbreak. We want to support your ability to do so. **Therefore, participating sites that are facing staffing challenges brought on by a surge of COVID-19 patients can make a request to their respective coordinating centers to reassign CQI data abstractors.** However, since the CQI data abstraction nurses are primarily funded via BCBSM, we ask that no CQI data abstractors be laid-off or furloughed without prior approval.

If your site needs to reassign one or more of its CQI data abstractors, you will be asked to complete a brief attestation identifying the abstractors, dates of the reassignment and what percent of your current patient census is COVID-related. Completed attestations should be submitted to the respective CQI coordinating center. BCBSM will work with each CQI Coordinating Center to determine approval.

This allowance will be in place between now and the end of January 2021. If your site has a continued need past January, you will need to request an extension with the respective coordinating center. We will work with the coordinating centers to determine whether modifications are needed to data abstraction models and P4P indexes to account for disruptions in data abstraction and quality initiative work due to this pandemic.

We understand each hospital will have different needs during this time and make different decisions. We hope this decision will allow you the flexibility you need for your organization's clinical resources to be on the critical end of this COVID-19 crisis. More than ever, we greatly appreciate all your critical support for patients in our Michigan hospitals during these uncertain times.

Sincerely,

BCBSM Collaborative Quality Initiatives Team