Why Wait to Join a Patient Safety Organization?

You have been given extra time in order to make the best decision about participating with a PSO. To prepare, you need to work with your internal stakeholders, create and obtain approval for a budget, and shop around for the best solution for your organization.

The final rule (published in the March 11, 2014 Federal Register) issued by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) that delayed the requirement to participate in a PSO is not sufficient reason to backburner the idea for two years. Organization leadership should take these additional two years, use them to prepare, and join a PSO when ready—not just because of a date on the regulatory calendar.

About the Final Rule

The final rule sets forth many of the payment parameters and oversight provisions related to federally facilitated health insurance exchanges and other requirements mandated by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA). Importantly, for patient safety, quality, and risk managers, the rule addresses requirements related to patient safety standards that qualified health plan issuers must meet. It also delays the requirement of PSO participation until at least January 1, 2017.

What You Should Do

Therefore, in anticipation of CMS' Phase Two Implementation Standards, which would begin no earlier than January 1, 2017, health care organizations should identify who in the organization should lead the effort to select a PSO. A workgroup of senior leadership, patient safety, risk management, quality, legal, nursing, medical staff, compliance, and other relevant departments should be formed now.

The additional time should be viewed as a bonus—now, organization leadership has the time to review budget capabilities, to choose a PSO that will actively support the organization, and to create and implement a strategy for productive event reporting, so that the organization will truly benefit from participation in a PSO. We encourage healthcare organizations to join a federally certified PSO to take advantage of legal protections for reported patient safety work product and opportunities to learn from aggregated data to improve patient care.

ECRI Institute PSO is more than reporting; it is the networking, feedback, tools, and guidance you receive. You've been given the time
necessary to make the best decision for your organization. Don’t waste it.

Contact us, and let us demonstrate how we can help you.

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