

# Finding Solutions to Your Practice's Challenges



## New Initiatives Provide Free Support to Maryland Physicians

As a physician, you are committed to providing the best care for your patients while maintaining the financial viability of your practice. As we adjust to an ever-changing healthcare landscape, many practices struggle to make sense of new requirements for quality reporting, reimbursement and health IT.

VHQC understands these challenges. Our no-cost initiatives will help your practice improve financial performance, successfully participate in incentive programs, avoid Medicare payment penalties and demonstrate better outcomes for patients with diabetes and cardiac disease.

Maryland & Virginia Quality Innovation Network



# Finding Solutions to Your Practice's Challenges

## VHQC can help

As the Quality Innovation Network for Maryland and Virginia, VHQC is launching several no-cost initiatives to help your practice improve financial performance, participate in incentive programs, avoid Medicare payment penalties and demonstrate better patient outcomes. Please read below to learn more about our new initiatives.

## Quality Reporting and Incentive Programs

VHQC is convening a select group of providers, community partners, local stakeholders, Regional Extension Centers, beneficiaries, and hospitals to form an "all teach, all learn" community. The initiative is designed to clarify requirements and offer assistance for the many quality initiatives. By participating in this initiative, you will get the support you need to:

1. Understand the connection and interrelationships between multiple Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) programs and initiatives that affect eligible professionals and eligible hospitals
2. Meet the requirements for Meaningful Use, Physician Quality Reporting System, and value modifier, as well as understand their respective incentives and penalties
3. Optimize electronic health record (EHR) workflows and processes
4. Understand the quality and cost measure information contained in the Quality and Resource Use Reports
5. Identify strategies and interventions that improve quality metrics

## Cardiac Improvement

We are bringing together providers and community organizations from across the region to implement and spread best practices for improving heart health and reducing disparities related to cardiovascular disease. By participating in this project, you will get the support you need to:

1. Reduce cardiac disparities within populations that are disproportionately affected by heart disease
2. Increase use of the evidence-based ABCS approach (aspirin therapy, blood pressure control, cholesterol management, and smoking cessation) to reduce cardiac risk
3. Become familiar with and use the resources of the Million Hearts® initiative

## Step Up: Everyone with Diabetes Counts

With the goal of improving care and preventing complications, this project aims to help patients and families, providers, and communities better address this serious chronic condition. As a participant, you will get the support you need to:

1. Enroll patients in an evidence-based self-management course
2. Improve the use of EHR for diabetes-specific quality measures
3. Elevate the health literacy of patients and family members to improve their quality of life
4. Enhance the level of engagement you have with patients

## Valuable Benefits

When you participate in these projects, you will have the support of a community to help solve any challenges

facing your practice, including high-performing Maryland and Virginia providers in both urban and rural settings. These comprehensive, no-cost initiatives include additional benefits, such as:

1. A dynamic learning network, including educational webinars that expand your skills and clinical knowledge
2. A 24/7 online community of supportive colleagues who are willing to share their experiences and knowledge
3. Tools and resources based on scientific evidence and the best clinical and communications practices from local, regional and national partners
4. Consultation with VHQC's quality improvement experts

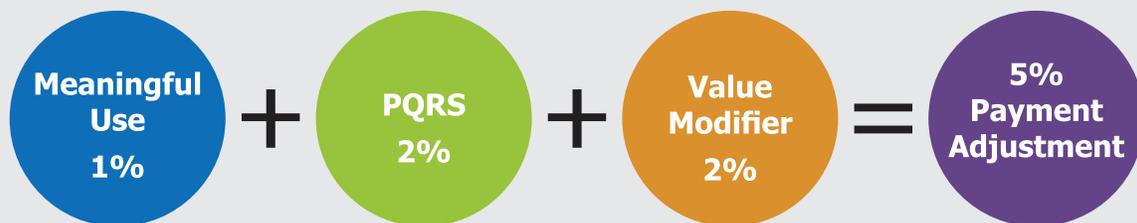


### Get Started

To enroll in one of our initiatives, please complete and return a participation agreement. For more information, call 804.289.5320 or email [satkins@vhqc.org](mailto:satkins@vhqc.org). You can also enroll online by visiting to <http://qin.vhqc.org/population-health/practice-participation-agreement/>.

## Payment Adjustment Example

Individually, Medicare payment penalties may seem inconsequential. Together, they can have a significant impact on your practice's financial performance. With VHQC's support, your practice will receive the support needed to participate in these programs and avoid any penalty.



### Based on this example:

For every \$100,000 in Medicare funds, your practice risks losing up to \$5,000 in payment adjustments.

## Quality Reporting & Incentive Programs

Puzzled by the requirements for Meaningful Use, the Physician Quality Reporting System and value modifier? We can help clarify these programs and equip your practice to optimize EHR processes and improve quality metrics.

## Cardiac Care

Implement best practices to improve heart health for your patients. We can help you reduce cardiac disparities and increase the use of the ABCS approach (aspirin therapy, blood pressure control, cholesterol management and smoking cessation).

## Diabetes Care

We will enroll your patients with diabetes in free courses using the Stanford Diabetes Self-Management Program. This evidence-based approach will help your patients improve their health and avoid complications.

## About VHQC

As the Quality Innovation Network Quality Improvement Organization (QIN-QIO) for Maryland and Virginia, VHQC convenes patients, providers, and stakeholders to rapidly improve health quality and achieve better health, better care, and lower costs. We do this work through the CMS QIO Program, the cornerstone of Medicare's efforts to improve the quality and value of healthcare for its more than 45 million beneficiaries.

VHQC has served as Virginia's QIO for 30 years, and has held multiple national CMS quality improvement contracts. We also serve as Virginia's Health IT Regional Extension Center, helping providers achieve meaningful use of their electronic health records. For additional information, visit us at [www.vhqc.org](http://www.vhqc.org).



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