

## CMS Awards Lake Superior QIN two new Contracts

Work will focus on improving care transitions for behavioral health conditions and immunization rates

**FARMINGTON HILLS, Mich., June 29, 2015** – Lake Superior Quality Innovation Network (QIN) is launching two new Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) initiatives. Both projects support the three-part aim of health care quality improvement: better care, better health and lower costs.

Depression and alcohol use disorder are common behavioral health conditions in the Medicare population and are frequently under-identified. Additionally, effective care transitions for these and other behavioral health conditions contribute to high readmission rates and problems in treatment adherence. For the first initiative, Lake Superior QIN will work in Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin to increase the identification of Medicare beneficiaries with depression or alcohol use disorder in primary care settings, reduce the 30-day readmission rate and increase outpatient follow-up for psychiatric discharges. Nationally, an estimated 10,000 primary practices recruited into this initiative will screen a majority of their Medicare caseload for depression and alcohol abuse, with a total of 1.5 million beneficiaries screened by 2019. For inpatient settings recruited into the initiative, the goal is to reduce the psychiatric readmission rate, and increase the follow-up rate for behavioral health practitioners following discharge by 2019.

Immunization rates among adults have historically been low, especially among racial and ethnic minorities. Influenza and pneumonia are vaccine-preventable diseases. However, combined they were the eighth leading cause of death in the U.S. in 2012. The goal of the second CMS initiative is to improve Medicare beneficiary immunization rates in Michigan through better tracking, documentation and reporting. The initiative has a special focus on underserved populations—minorities and those living in rural areas—to reduce health care disparities. The initiative targets three immunization vaccines: seasonal influenza, pneumococcal and herpes zoster (shingles). Lake Superior QIN's work supports the [National Vaccine Advisory Committee](#), [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices](#) and [Healthy People 2020](#).

The immunizations initiative is hosting a kick-off webinar on July 22 from noon-1 p.m. ET. Lake Superior QIN will be joined by its partners at the [Michigan Department of Health and Human Services](#) to introduce the project and provide an update on immunizations in Michigan. To register, visit <https://www.lsqin.org/event/immunizations-kickoff/>.

Both initiatives run through July 2019.

### About Lake Superior QIN and MPRO

MPRO of Michigan, MetaStar of Wisconsin and Stratis Health of Minnesota have partnered as the Lake Superior Quality Innovation Network (QIN) to support the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) priorities for health care quality improvement in each organization's respective state. Together, these organizations collaborate to improve health care for Medicare beneficiaries by working with a broad range of providers, stakeholders and patients. For more information, visit [www.lsqin.org](http://www.lsqin.org).

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