

March 17, 2020

To all CQI participants,

As you are aware, we are in unprecedented times. We understand hospitals are taking active steps to prepare for a significant increase in patients resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, and we are keenly aware of concerns some of you face about having the necessary nursing capabilities to deal with this surge in patients. For some of you, this includes shifting staff resources to manage this looming outbreak, and we want to support your ability to do so. Therefore, we have extended authority to the CQI coordinating centers to allow their participants to redeploy nurse abstractors to help address front-line care needs during this time.

If your organization needs to reassign its CQI data abstractor, you will be asked to complete a brief attestation identifying the abstractor and the dates of the reassignment. Additional information will be forthcoming on when/how you should submit this information to the CQI coordinating center(s).

Blue Cross will not penalize hospitals needing to make such changes via their P4P scores, nor will we reduce data abstraction funding. This allowance will be in place **between now and the end of April**, and we will work with the coordinating centers well in advance to determine whether an extension is needed. We will also work with them to determine how best to modify scoring models and data abstraction models to account for disruptions in data abstraction due to this pandemic.

We understand organizations 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