

HIE Population Health Toolbox: MBQIP

Medicare Beneficiary Quality Improvement Project (MBQIP) is a quality improvement project under the Health Resources and Services Administration's Federal Office of Rural Health Policy that aims to improve the quality of care provided in Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs). With nearly 50% of CAHs having negative financial margins, Health Information Exchanges (HIEs) are positioned to reduce the impact of program participation by semi-automating the extraction and reporting processes to enable improvement efforts at the hospital, network and state levels.

MBQIP FACTS



57 million people live in non-metropolitan counties



99% CAHs in the country participate in the program



45 state FLEX programs manage the program



1,286 of participating CAHs submit quality measures in one or more reporting domains

CURRENT STATE

Staff spend more time reporting than improving.

Manual extraction, aggregation and submission processes are prone to errors.

Quarterly performance monitoring makes it difficult to make improvements.

State-level MBQIP leaders use quarterly benchmarking to manage resources.

HIE ROLE

Provide reporting automation so staff have more time to work on value-added activities.

Build trust in the data by providing a technology solution that reduces the risk of inaccurate MBQIP reporting.

Support process change by providing data that exposes opportunity in near real-time.

Equip MBQIP leaders to understand performance at a more granular level by providing near real-time analytics at state, network and hospital levels.

When early adopter HIEs have aligned to this program, CAHs have seen significant efficiency gains, with some hospitals saving upwards of 120 hours annually. This is in addition to reports of improved confidence in the accuracy of the data, and the ability to understand current and historical performance patterns to drive improvements.

While urgency has been building to address the rural health dilemma, it wasn't until late 2019 that CMS announced rethinking rural health as a national priority. HIEs have the chance to support rural health transformation by providing advanced technology solutions that would likely not be possible otherwise. The relationships and technical integrations built with supporting MBQIP, drives the broader aim of supporting the traditionally lagging, rural setting to value-based care and proactively positioning your HIE to support future alternative payment models in this setting.