Narrative
Transforming Clinical Practice Initiative

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services’ (CMS) Transforming Clinical Practice Initiative (TCPI) is a key component of the new CMS Quality Payment Program. TCPI is uniquely designed to help 140,000 clinicians nationwide transform their practices from quantity of services to quality of care. Nationally, the 31 designated Practice Transformation Networks (PTNs) are charged with coaching and assisting clinicians in developing core competencies that prepare them to participate in Alternative Payment Models (APMs). In late 2015, Lake Superior QIN was awarded a contract to assist the PTNs operating in our 3-state geographic region. A key role of QIN-QIOs is to assess the clinician practices’ progress through five defined phases of practice transformation, by conducting TCPI baseline assessments and ongoing follow-up assessments for each practice. The five phases of TCPI practice transformation are: Set Aims, Use Data to Drive Care, Achieve Progress on Aims, Achieve Benchmark Status, and Thrive Via Pay for Value Approaches.

From the start, Lake Superior QIN – which serves Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin – put a high priority on customer service and establishing strong working relationships with the eight PTNs operating in its region, which currently represent over 800 practices and more than 7,000 clinicians. Building trust and creating ongoing communications were instrumental in the process. Project charters defined expectations and identified shared PTN/QIN-QIO measures. Once relationships were established, the Lake Superior QIN-PTN project teams worked collaboratively to develop efficient practice assessment processes – introductions, warm-handoffs, scheduling/conducting assessments, providing assessment feedback to PTNs, and completed assessments submission to CMS.

The scope of the areas and processes involved in TCPI transformation is extensive. The assessments track a practice’s progress towards achieving the five defined TCPI transformation phases. The PTNs provide direct assistance to the practices to support their overall transformation goals and strategies.

Lake Superior QIN continues to work closely with the eight PTNs conducting baselines for newly enrolled practices as well as ongoing follow-up assessments. Where feasible, Lake Superior QIN is integrating TCPI with other QIN project work such as depression and alcohol screening. In some cases, Lake Superior QIN has been sharing quality improvement resources and tools with PTNs to help eliminate waste within practice workflows.