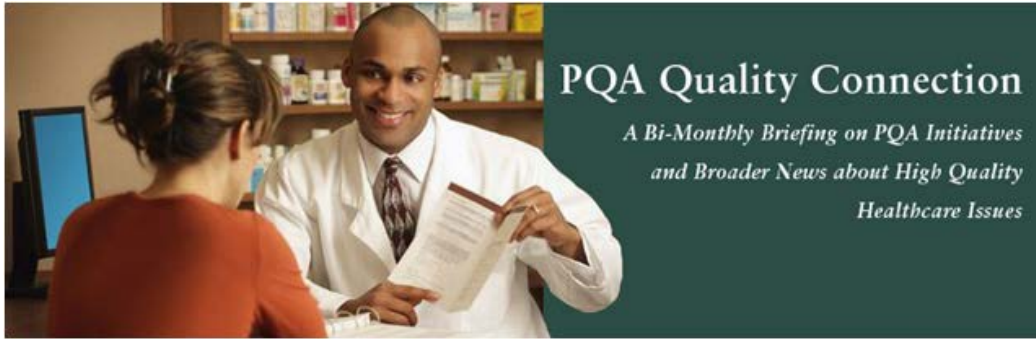




## ***Hot Off the Press: Connections to Key Quality Publications***

*Hot Off the Press* seeks to connect the reader to the most relevant and recent trials, reviews and commentaries related to health care quality with a focus on medication- and pharmacy-related topics.

### **Optimization of Medication Use at Accountable Care Organizations**

This cross-sectional study solicited surveys and interviews of leaders in accountable care organizations (ACOs) to assess their perceptions of medication optimization. The survey used a medication practice inventory that included six functional domains pertaining to medications optimization, including analytics and evaluation, care teams/clinical protocols, discharge planning/transitional care, health information technology, patient education, and prescribing practices. ACOs were asked to self-assess themselves on their ability to manage quality and cost related to medications

These are important considerations in the overall field of health care quality, as by 2020 it is expected that more than 25% of patients will be covered by ACOs and around 70% of all medical visits involve medication. CMS uses 33 quality metrics in evaluating ACOs, and plans to introduce more medication quality metrics over the next several years.

PQA develops measures for effective and safe medication use, and this article reminds us that quality measurement is widely used to calculate reimbursement in value-based care. ACOs and other value-based reimbursement models are growing. This article points out that it is important to include plans to integrate medication quality measures into strategic planning for healthcare organizations

to succeed financially, and most importantly, to deliver excellent patient care.

*Wilks, C, et al. Optimization of Medication Use at Accountable Care Organizations. Manag Care Spec Pharm. 2017;23(10):1054-64*