

December 6, 2021,

To all CQI participants,

COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations have increased once again across the state and some hospitals are facing staffing shortages. We recognize that Michigan hospitals may be challenged to support the nursing resources needed to address this surge in patients. Since there are many hospital-based registered nurses currently engaged in CQI data abstraction activities, we understand participating sites may once again need to shift staffing resources to patient care. Therefore, participating sites that are facing staffing challenges brought on by a surge of COVID-19 patients can make a request to their respective coordinating centers to reassign CQI data abstractors. However, since the CQI data abstraction nurses are primarily funded via BCBSM, we ask that no CQI data abstractors be laid-off or furloughed without prior approval. If your site needs to reassign one or more of its CQI data abstractors, you will be asked to complete a brief attestation identifying the abstractors, dates of the reassignment and what percent of your current patient census is COVID-related. Completed attestations should be submitted to the respective CQI coordinating center. BCBSM will work with each CQI Coordinating Center to determine approval.

This allowance will be in place between now and January 31, 2022. BCBSM will reconsider the continued need for leniency at that time. Despite this period of permissiveness regarding redeployment, we do not plan to modify data abstraction models or P4P indexes for the 2021 calendar year.

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