



maryland
health services
cost review commission

EQIP and PY2 Episodes

March 2022



Agenda

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1. Overview
2. New Episodes and Policy Decisions
3. Performance Data Release Schedule



Brief Overview of EQIP

THE EPISODE QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

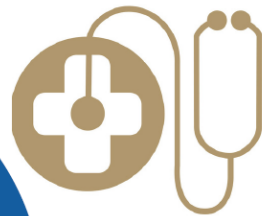
Informational Call

April 6th
7:00-8:00pm
Zoom

Join this call to
learn more about
the Value-Based
Medicare Incentive
Payment
Opportunity for
Maryland
Physicians

Hear from The Maryland Health
Service Cost Review Commission,
CRISP, and MedChi on how EQIP
could help you

Register Here
Questions?
gtinsley@medchi.org



MedChi
The Maryland State Medical Society
Your Advocate. Your Resource. **Your Profession.**



The Episode Quality Improvement Program – EQIP

The HSCRC began a voluntary, episodic incentive payment program for specialist physicians in Medicare in January 2022.

Physician ownership of performance

Upside-only risk with dissavings accountability

Alignment with CareFirst's episode payment program

AAPM/value-based payment participation opportunities for MD physicians

EQIP will (mostly) utilize the Prometheus Episode Grouping to construct episodes. This allows for alignment with other payers (including CareFirst).

However, there are some clinical areas that Prometheus does not cover. We have been working with stakeholders to develop new episodes for ED physicians.

EQIP Episodes for Year 1

| Cardiology | Gastroenterology | Orthopedics |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| Pacemaker / Defibrillator – Procedure, 30 | Colonoscopy – Procedure, 14 | Hip Replacement & Hip Revision – Procedure, 90 |
| Acute Myocardial Infarction – Acute, 30 | Colorectal Resection – Procedure, 90 | Hip/Pelvic Fracture – Acute, 30 |
| CABG &/or Valve Procedures – Procedure, 90 | Gall Bladder Surgery – Procedure, 90 | Knee Arthroscopy – Procedure, 90 |
| Coronary Angioplasty – Procedure, 90 | Upper GI Endoscopy – Procedure, 14 | Knee Replacement & Knee Revision – Procedure, 90 |
| | | Lumbar Laminectomy – Procedure, 90 |
| | | Lumbar Spine Fusion – Procedure, 180 |
| | | Shoulder Replacement – Procedure, 90 |

Outreach Opportunity

If you are interested in learning more, please reach out to equip@crisphealth.org or gtinsley@medchi.org

- We would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.
- We would also be happy to discuss opportunities for future episodes.

New Episodes for EQIP Year 2

Proposed Prometheus Episodes

| Specialty | Episode Name | Episode Type |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| Allergist | Allergic Rhinitis/Chronic Sinusitis | Chronic |
| | Asthma | Chronic |
| Dermatologist | Cellulitis, Skin Infection | Complications |
| | Dermatitis, Urticaria | Complications |
| | Decubitus Ulcer | Complications |
| Ophthalmologist | Cataract Surgery, 14 | Procedural |
| | Glaucoma | Chronic |
| Orthopedist/Orthopedic Surgeon | Low Back Pain | Chronic |
| | Osteoarthritis | Chronic |
| | Accidental Falls | Complications |
| Urologist | Catheter Associated UTIs | Complications |
| | Urinary Tract Infection | Complications |
| | Transurethral resection prostate | Complications |
| | Prostatectomy, 90 | Procedural |

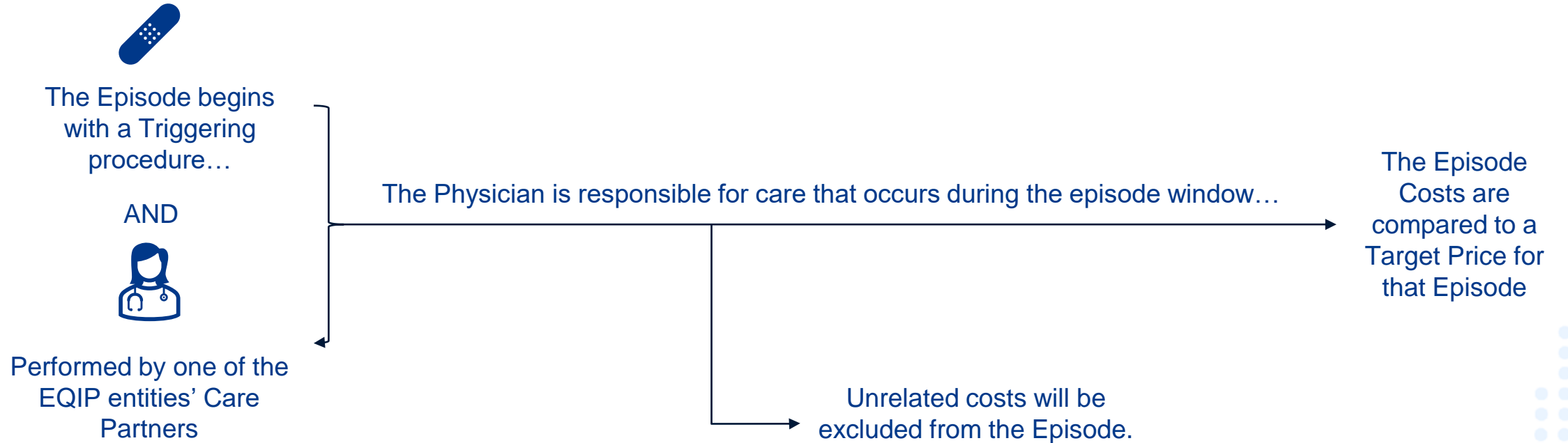
Proposed ED Episodes

| ED Episodes | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Chest Pain | Pneumonia |
| Hypertension | Asthma/COPD |
| Atrial Fibrillation | Skin & Soft Tissue Infection |
| Deep Vein Thrombosis | Syncope |
| Abdominal Pain & Gastrointestinal Symptoms | Fever, Fatigue or Weakness |
| Diverticulitis | Shortness of Breath |
| Hyperglycemia with Diabetes Mellitus | Hyperglycemia |
| Dehydration & Electrolyte Derangements | Skin and soft tissue infections |
| Urinary Tract Infection | Deep vein thrombosis |
| Nephrolithiasis | |

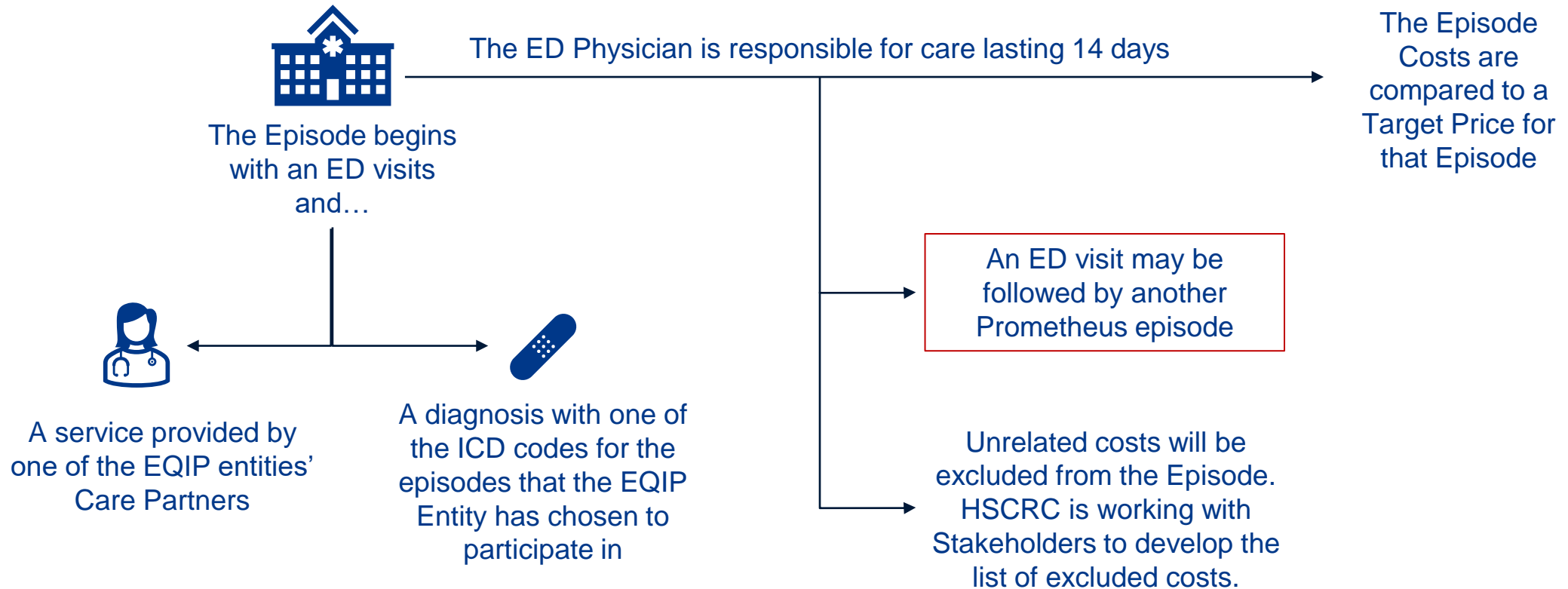
These Episodes fall within four different types of episodes

1. Procedure Based Episodes – These episodes are triggered by one of a physician that performs one of the triggering procedures.
2. Emergency Department Episodes – These episodes are triggered by an ED visit with one of the triggering diagnosis.
3. Complications Episodes – These episodes are triggered by a procedure that is typically part of or closely related too another episode.
4. Chronic Episodes – These episodes are triggered by a patient with a chronic condition that has seen the physician.

Overview of Procedural Episodes



Overview of ED Episodes



Overlap with other Episodes

The overlap between an ED Episode and Procedural Episode is potentially problematic because...

- Savings that are produced in the Procedural Episode will be double counted;
- The accountability for managing the patient is split between different physicians.

We could resolve this by excluding overlapping episode from the ED care.

- This would prevent double payments to physicians; BUT...
- This would limit the savings that an ED physician could earn from avoiding downstream procedures.

Resolving Overlap between ED and Procedural Episodes

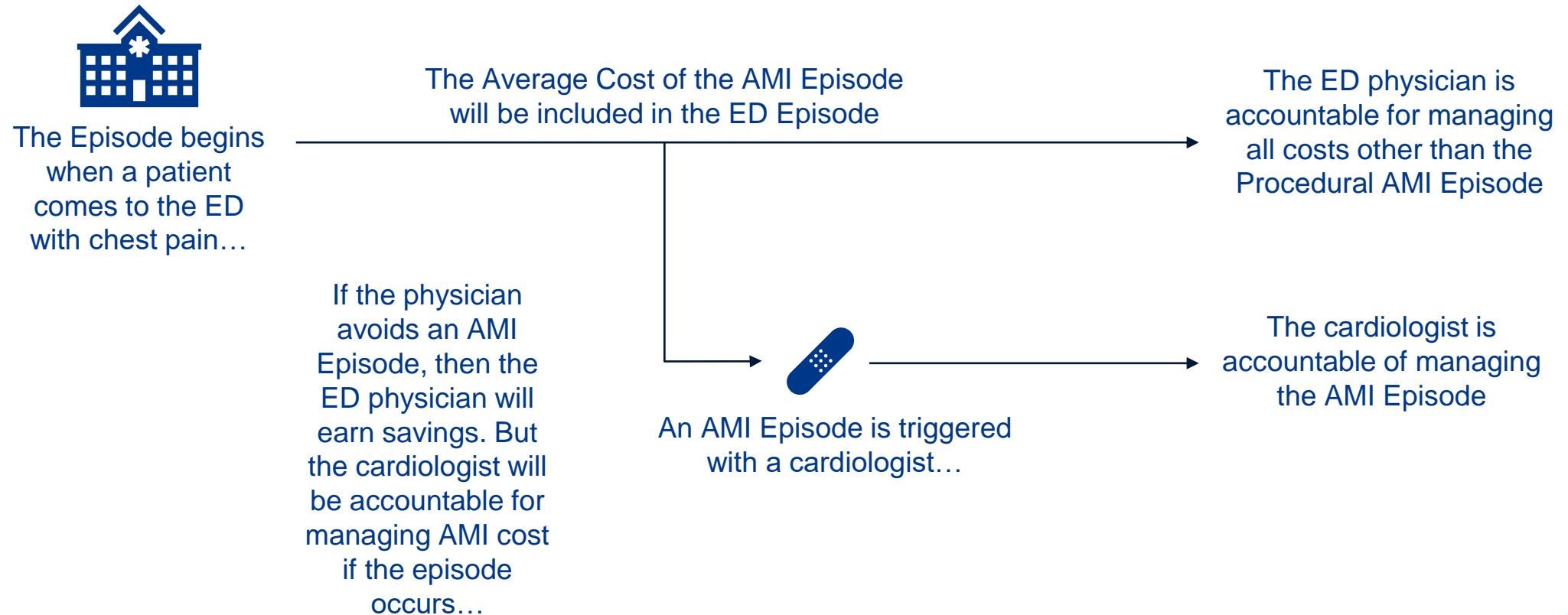
In the ED Episode: We will remove any costs associated with a downstream ED episode and replace those costs with the average target price of that episode.

- This allows the ED physician to earn shared savings by avoiding an episode.
- But the ED physician will not be responsible for costs in an episode triggered by another physician.

In the downstream Procedural Episode: The episode will run as usual.

- The physician responsible for that episode will be accountable for managing costs associated with the downstream episode.
- They (not the ED physician) will receive any savings associated with the downstream episode.

Overview of ED Episodes

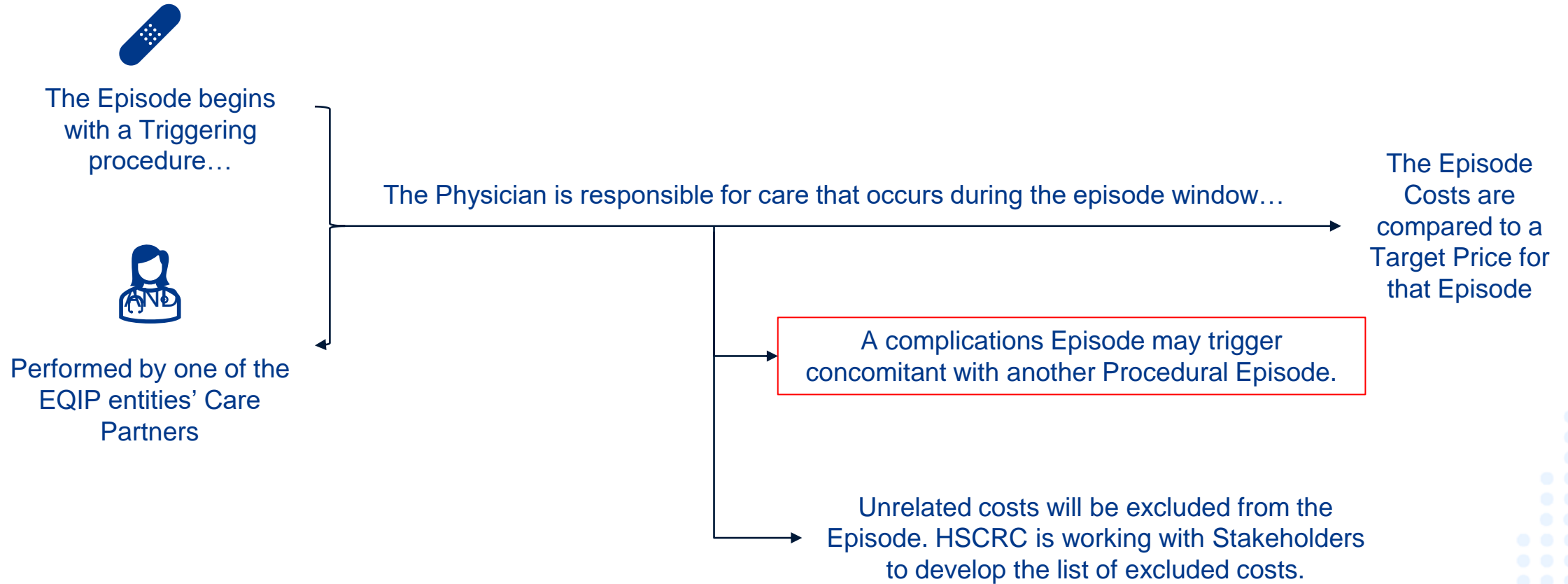


Next Steps...

We would appreciate thoughts from Stakeholders about this approach.

- It may not be necessary if there is little overlap between episodes.
- For example, if ED physicians treating chest pains in the ED are also responsible for the AMI Episode, then there is no need to separate the episodes.
- We would then need to establish precedence rules. E.g. the ED episode will trigger but not the cardiology episode.

Overview of Complications Episodes



Overlap with other Episodes

The same problem exists with the Complications Episodes...

- Savings that are produced in the Procedural Episode will be double counted;
- The accountability for managing the patient is split between different physicians.

We could resolve this by excluding the complications episode from the procedural episode.

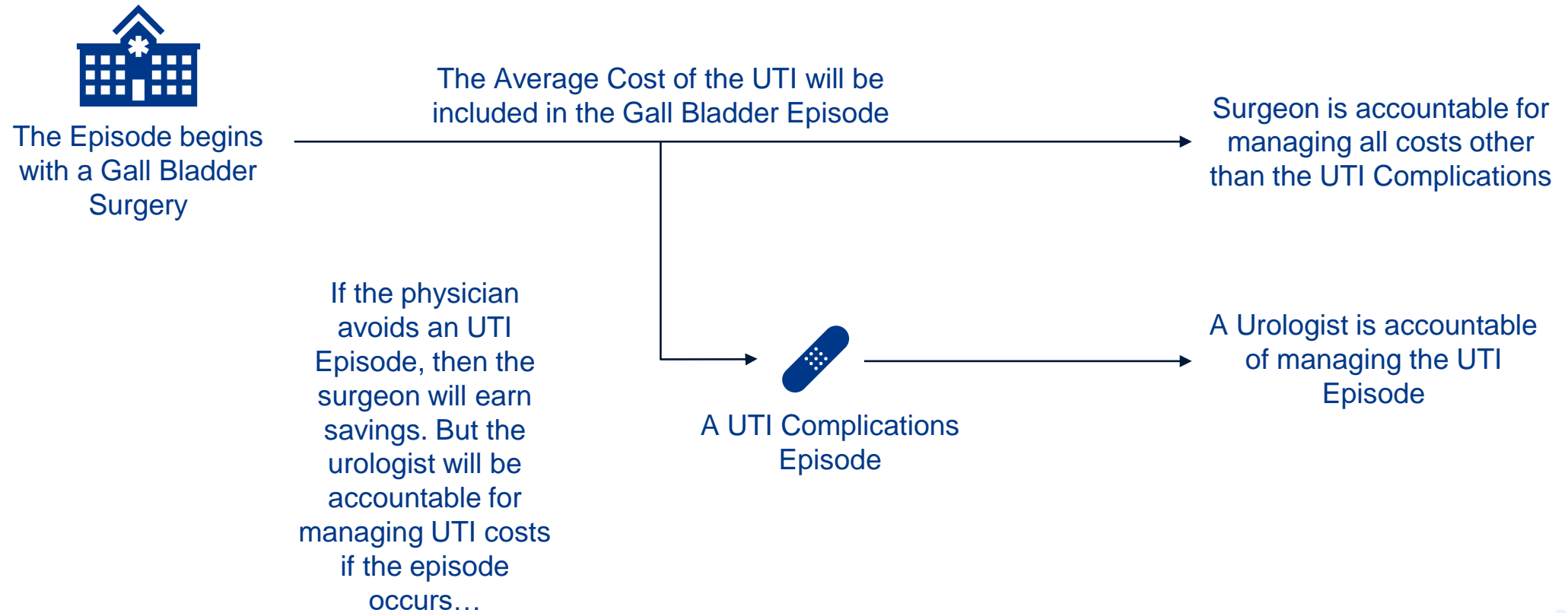
- This would prevent double payments to physicians; BUT...
- This would limit the savings that the physician responsible for the procedural episode could earn from avoiding complications.

We are considering using the same approach as with the ED Episodes.

- The Procedural Episode will include the Average Target Price of any Complications Episode.
- The Complications Episode will trigger with a different physician.

The physician triggering the Procedural Episode will be accountable for managing the procedural Episode. But another physician will be responsible for managing the Complications Episode.

Overview of Complications Episodes



Chronic Episodes

The previous episodes trigger based on a discrete event. Chronic Episodes do not have the same discrete triggering event. Therefore, we have to develop alternative attribution rules.

We are considering two attribution rules for Chronic Episodes:

- Attributing the Chronic Episode to the Physician with the Plurality of E&M Claims;
- Attributing the Chronic Episode to the Physician with the Highest E&M Costs.

Implications of the Attribution Rules

The Chronic Episodes will be attributed retrospectively after the end of the episode, based on the claims that occurred during the Episode.

- This means that Physicians will not know whether a patient is attributed to them until after the course of the episode has completed.
- However, episodes will be attributed to the physician most responsible for the Episode.
- All other aspects of the episodes will function as per a procedural episode.

We welcome stakeholder's perspectives on the attribution of the Chronic Episodes and will decide on whether to include those Episodes based on stakeholders' interest.



Reminder on Methodology

Incentive Payment Methodology

Incentive Payments will be direct checks made from the CRP Entity to the EQIP Entity for aggregate positive performance after a minimum savings threshold, shared savings split, and quality adjustment are applied.

1. Performance Period Results

- The Performance Period Episode costs are less than the Target Price in the aggregate across all episodes in which the EQIP Entity participates.
- At least three percent of savings are achieved (stat. significant)
- Dissavings from prior year (if any) are offset

2. Shared Savings

- Each Care Partner's Target Price** will be compared to the statewide experience and annually ranked based on relative efficiency. Lower cost providers will be in a higher tier and vice versa.
- The Shared Savings split with Medicare will be based on the Care Partner's Target Price rank

| Target Price Rank | % of Savings to due Care Partner |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Up to 33 rd percentile | 50 percent |
| 34 th – 66 th percentile | 65 percent |
| 66 th + percentile | 80 percent |

3. Clinical Quality Score

- 5% of the incentive payment achieved will be withheld for quality assessment
- The EQIP Entity's quality performance will indicate the portion of this withholding that is 'earned back'

5. Final Incentive Payment

- Paid directly to the payment remission source indicated by the EQIP Entity*
- Paid in full, six months after the end of the performance year
- In addition to incentive payments, if QPP thresholds are met, Medicare will pay a bonus to physicians and increase rate updates in future years.

4. Incentive Payment Cap

- The result is no more than 25 percent of the EQIP Participant's prior year Part B payments

*The EQIP entity can direct the payment remission source to distribute payments to individual Care Partners however it desires.

** In Year 1 the Target Price will be used to determine the tercile, in subsequent years, prior year performance will be used.

Target Price Methodology

- 2019* will serve as the baseline for the first three performance years for all new episodes.
 - Each EQIP Entity will have their own **unique Target Price** per episode
 - The baseline will be trended forward in order to compare to current performance costs
 - Target Prices are not final until the end of the Performance Year as final inflation will need to be applied
 - The baseline for entities that join in subsequent performance years will be the year prior to them joining
- Each EQIP Entity will have a singular Target Price
 - The target price will be the weighted average of the episodes initiated by the participating physicians in the baseline period.
 - An EQIP entity must have at list 50 episodes total and 11 episodes in each episode category they choose to participate in.

* HSCRC is exploring the possibility of using a later baseline period.



PY1: Performance Data Timeline

Completed Episode Timeline

Episodes are complete 90 days after the end of the post-trigger window:

- A 14-day episode will complete 104 days after it is triggered
- A 30-day episode will complete 120 days after it is triggered
- A 90-day episode will complete 180 days after it is triggered
- A 180-day episode will complete 270 days after it is triggered

The Prometheus algorithm is run quarterly on completed episodes only. Therefore, episodes (including claims run out) must be completed by end of prior quarter to be included in performance data.

EQIP: PY1 Episodes – Performance Data Release Schedule

Dates correspond to episode trigger dates included in release, e.g., 2/28 includes episodes triggered up through February 28th of PY1

| Episode | Length | Apr '22 | Jul '22 | Oct '22 | Jan '23 | Apr '23 | Jul'23 |
|-----------------------------------|--------|---------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|
| Colonoscopy | 14 | - | 1/01 - 1/17 | 1/01 - 4/16 | 1/01 – 7/17 | 1/01 – 10/17 | 01/01 - 12/31 |
| Upper GI Endoscopy | | | | | | | |
| Acute Myocardial Infarction (AMI) | 30 | - | 1/01 | 1/01 – 3/31 | 1/01 – 7/01 | 1/01 – 10/01 | 01/01 - 12/31 |
| Hip/Pelvic Fracture | | | | | | | |
| Pacemaker / Defibrillator | | | | | | | |
| CABG &/or Valve Procedures | 90 | - | - | 1/01 - 1/30 | 1/01 - 5/02 | 1/01 - 08/02 | 01/01 - 11/02 |
| Colorectal Resection | | | | | | | |
| Coronary Angioplasty | | | | | | | |
| Gall Bladder Surgery | | | | | | | |
| Hip Replacement & Hip Revision | | | | | | | |
| Knee Arthroscopy | | | | | | | |
| Knee Replacement & Knee Revision | | | | | | | |
| Lumbar Laminectomy | | | | | | | |
| Shoulder Replacement | | | | | | | |
| Lumbar Spine Fusion | 180 | - | - | - | 1/01 - 2/01 | 1/01 - 5/04 | 01/01 - 9/30 |

Implications of the Data Availability Timeline

Participants will have relatively little data by the end of August, when the application window for EQIP Year 2 closes.

- The timeline is driven by CMS' vetting process.
- Participants that are not vetted cannot join EQIP.
- Vetted participants will be allowed to drop up until the start of the year.

Therefore, we recommend that all interested providers complete the application process by August. More data will be available before the final decision to participate needs to be made.



Questions?

Next Steps

Our next steps on EQIP will be:

- Stakeholders that have questions or comments should email us at equip@crisphealth.org
- The next EQIP subgroup meeting will be May 20th. We will finalize the available EQIP Episodes for Year 2 during that meeting.
- Participants that want to develop their own (non-Prometheus episodes) for Year 3 should start now.