

# MAHEC Is Ready for MACRA, and So Are Our Clients

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Last week was the deadline for physicians and other eligible professionals to begin collecting data to meet reporting requirements under the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA) or face a potential reduction in future Medicare reimbursement.

WNC practices who have been working with MAHEC's Health Innovation Partners (HIP) team have nothing to worry about. The HIP Team has helped more than 120 WNC practices implement the kinds of quality improvement, data collection and reporting processes that are recognized and reimbursed at higher levels under MACRA.

"We give our clients multiple pathways to be successful so they don't have to reinvent the wheel," shares HIP Team practice consultant Terri Roberts.

The HIP Team was asked to contribute four case studies for the MACRA Toolkit recently published by the National Committee for Quality Assurance.

MAHEC was one of only five organizations across the United States asked to submit case studies and the only organization that provided more than one. These case studies highlight quality improvement support provided to WNC practices by consultants Terri Roberts, Leslie McDowell, and Evan Richardson.

Success stories include a WNC practice that improved blood pressure control by more than 40% in patients with hypertension.

Another practice identified patients at increased risk of cardiovascular disease who would benefit from

but weren't receiving aspirin or statin therapy. These outreach efforts not only improved prevention therapy rates but also increased the use of statins in more than 90% of patients with established cardiovascular disease.

Achieving multiple aims or benefits is an example of what Evan calls "feeding many birds with one seed," which is what the HIP Team strives to do with every project and practice.

Two other WNC practices whose stories are included in the toolkit implemented team-based continuous quality improvement processes that helped them achieve Patient-Centered Medical Home recognition. Using a team-based approach to CQI helped these practices prevent provider and staff burnout while improving patient health outcomes on a variety of measures.

"Our job is to understand how data should be collected, reported and evaluated, so we can help our clients get a broader view of their patient population," shares Leslie.

"This population view enables practices to improve the health of more patients more effectively, and by using team-based care strategies, decreases staff burnout."

MAHEC is committed to helping WNC practices achieve the quadruple aim: enhancing patient experience, improving population health, reducing healthcare costs and improving workforce resilience.

To learn more about MAHEC's practice consulting services, you can [visit our website](#) or contact Leslie at Leslie.McDowell@mahec.net or 771-4227. Click here to access the [MACRA Toolkit](#).