Creating an Alert Based On Quality Measures and Clinical Guidelines*

*This content was adapted from a DOQ-IT University resources created for the Centers of Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) by MassPro:
http://www.masspro.org/HIT/DOQU/index.php

1) Identify a clinical guideline that clinicians agree with and will follow.
2) Using your registry, review your practice population to identify areas of care that are lacking (e.g. ACEI are not used in enough patients with heart failure). Create an alert to remind clinicians when caring for those specific patients.
3) Determine where in the record the alert will go, and how it will be managed.
   a) An alert pops up in the medication list, the note section or when the patient's EHR is accessed.
   b) An alert that populates an alert section of the EHR.
   c) An alert is highlighted by color or graphics.
4) Decide how the alert is acted on.
   a) Can the alert be ignored and removed from the screen?
   b) Does it have to be acknowledged or acted on before it is removed?
   c) Is the clinician prevented from continuing the work until the alert is addressed?
5) Create a system for feedback from users.
6) Review data to see if the alert is working—improvement in outcome and process measures.