

2

# Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility Quality Reporting Program PRESENTER BIOS



August 15 and 16, 2019  
Four Seasons Hotel  
Baltimore, MD 21202



**Ariel Adams, M.S.N., R.N.,  
AGCNS-BC**  
Nurse Consultant  
CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID  
SERVICES (CMS)

Ariel Adams currently works as a nurse for CMS and serves as the IRF Quality Reporting Program Coordinator. She received her BSN from Coppin State University, Helene Fuld School of Nursing and her MSN from Johns Hopkins University, School of Nursing. She is a board certified Adult-Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) with a background in quality and patient safety. She worked as a CNS within the MedStar Health System, where she served as a nurse, clinical expert and a program manager. She also worked as a Patient Safety Specialist at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center ensuring safe quality care for retired and active duty military personnel, reviewing safety processes and implementing action plans to facilitate best practices.



**Anne Deutsch, R.N., Ph.D.,  
CRRN**  
Senior Research Public Health Analyst  
RTI INTERNATIONAL

Anne Deutsch, R.N., Ph.D., CRRN, is a senior research public health analyst with RTI International. She is a certified rehabilitation registered nurse with a doctoral degree in epidemiology and community health. She was part of the team that developed the Continuity Assessment and Record Evaluation tool and was involved in training data collectors and data analysis in the Medicare Post-Acute Care Payment Reform Demonstration. Anne has an appointment as a Clinical Research Scientist at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago's Center for Rehabilitation Outcomes Research and is a Research Associate Professor in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation in Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine.



**Manisha Dass**  
Research Public Health Analyst  
RTI INTERNATIONAL

Manisha Dass is a research public health analyst with RTI International in the Quality Measurement and Healthy Policy program, within the eHealth, Quality and Analytics Division. At RTI, she works on healthcare delivery and policy projects with a focus on quality measures and standardized data elements, including functional status collected in each post-acute setting. She is a part of the cross-setting help desk team, answering questions for post-acute care providers. Manisha has over five years of experience as an occupational therapist in direct patient care in acute care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, and private practice, which helps her bring a clinician's perspective to the team. Manisha also has a strong background in journalism, writing, and developing training materials, allowing her to contribute to the creation of new materials to help clinicians better understand and implement the Section GG data elements in post-acute care settings.



**Terry Kahlert Eng, Ph.D., R.N.**  
Research Public Health Analyst  
RTI INTERNATIONAL

Dr. Kahlert Eng is a senior manager of public health in the Quality Measurement and Policy Program in RTI's Division of Health Services and Social Policy Research. Since joining RTI, Dr. Kahlert Eng has worked on several CMS projects. Dr. Kahlert Eng currently serves as the Long-Term Care Hospital (LTCH) Lead for the Development and Maintenance of Symptom Management Measures project funded by CMS. This project is focused on the development, maintenance, and re-evaluation of quality measures for post-acute care settings to develop and implement quality measures for the LTCH Quality Reporting Program. In addition, Dr. Kahlert Eng is the RTI Lead for the Drug Regimen Review Conducted with Follow-up for Identified Issues quality measure and a member of the analytic teams for the Evaluation of the Initiative to Reduce Avoidable Hospitalizations among Nursing Facility Residents with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation where she conducts semi-structured interviews with skilled nursing facility leadership and clinical staff as the Missouri State Lead.

Dr. Kahlert Eng has extensive clinical nursing leadership experience in surgical, critical care, cardiovascular, and medical nursing at Brigham and Women's Hospital.



**Karen Prior-Topalis, R.N.,  
B.S.N., M.B.A., CCM**  
**Manager of Quality and Outcomes**  
MOUNT SINAI REHABILITATION HOSPITAL

Karen Prior-Topalis is the Manager of Quality and Outcomes at Mount Sinai Rehabilitation Hospital in Hartford, CT. Karen is a graduate of Central Connecticut State University, where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. She also holds a Master of Business Administration degree from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. A member of the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, Ms. Prior-Topalis has held various positions during her more than 30-year career. Her prior roles include Nurse Manager of an inpatient rehabilitation unit, Prospective Payment System (PPS) Coordinator, Staff Development Instructor, and Case Manager. She is a Certified Case Manager (CCM), a member of the American Case Manager Association (ACMA), and a member of the Connecticut chapter of ACMA. Karen is also a 2007 recipient of the prestigious Nightingale Award for Excellence in Nursing.

Throughout her career, Karen has created and delivered training and education to all levels of staff and patients. She developed training for the Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility-Patient Assessment Instrument (IRF-PAI), and programs for the ongoing credentialing of employees completing the FIM™ Instrument. Her team created innovative methods to engage employees using interactive games and strategies to educate to all types of learners and impact patient outcomes.

In her current role, Karen was instrumental in creating the Quality and Outcomes Department, a comprehensive department in which she manages the admissions staff, case managers, and PPS Coordinator. This model reflects her philosophy of an integrated team responsible for the functional, satisfaction, and financial outcomes of the patients.



**Ann M. Spenard, D.N.P., R.N.-BC**  
**Principal & Vice President**  
QUALIDIGM

Ann Spenard is a Principal and Vice President at Qualidigm, chiefly responsible for program operations and overseeing major initiatives, including the Quality Innovation Network-Quality Improvement Organization contract with CMS. Throughout her extensive career as a long-term care and geriatrics specialist, Ann has led national quality, patient safety, and data validation projects. She has also taught nationally to providers groups and CMS.

Ann is involved in multiple research projects and publications on topics related to patient safety and healthcare quality improvement. She is a master trainer for TeamSTEPS, an evidence-based teamwork program to improve patient safety, and helped adapt this national program for use in long-term care.

Prior to joining Qualidigm, Ann was the founder and president of Healthcare Consultation & Education Resources, Inc., where she provided consultation and education on issues of long-term care and geriatrics.

Ann received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Western Connecticut State University, a Master of Science in Nursing, and a Doctorate of Nursing Practice from Sacred Heart University. She serves on the Connecticut League of Nursing Board and the Avila Institute of Gerontology Board.



**Debra Weiland, B.S.N., R.N.,  
RAC-CT**  
**Nurse Consultant**  
CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID  
SERVICES (CMS)

Debra Weiland is a registered nurse by training and a Nurse Consultant on the Division of Chronic and Post-Acute Care (DCPAC) team at CMS. Prior to joining CMS, Debra worked as a Federal contractor, serving as the Lead Program Manager on the Quality Improvement and Evaluation System contract, supporting five Post-Acute Care Assessment Submission and Processing systems and downstream reporting of the data, including the Quality Reporting Program Quality Measure reports. Debra maintains her Resident Assessment Coordinator (RAC-CT) certification through the American Association of Nurse Assessment Coordinators.