



## SOLICITATION OF MEASURES AND MEASURE CONCEPTS

NQF is seeking new performance measures and concepts related to fourteen topical areas (see [Appendix A](#) for more information) that can be used for accountability and public reporting for all populations and in all settings of care.

NQF is particularly interested in:

- Measures of intermediate clinical outcomes or longer term health outcomes, including complications;
- composite performance measures;
- measures applicable to more than one setting;
- measures that capture broad populations;
- measures that are harmonized with similar measures; and,
- measures that are sensitive to vulnerable populations, including racial/ethnic minorities, and Medicaid populations.

### MEASURE CONCEPTS

In addition to soliciting fully-developed measures for consensus-based endorsement review, NQF is also soliciting measure concepts through NQF's Measure Inventory Pipeline. This pipeline will serve as an important source of information for HHS and other stakeholders on new measure development in the broader healthcare community. It will also enable NQF to track current and planned measure development to ensure early collaboration among developers to drive harmonization and alignment of measures.

In an effort to capture comprehensive information on measures in development, NQF seeks input on several variables including:

- measure description;
- numerator statement;
- denominator statement (target population);
- planned use,
- stage of development; and
- other relevant information.

**Please note that the information entered through NQF's Measure Inventory Pipeline will not be evaluated by the Standing Committee against the NQF Criteria.** Submitted information will be catalogued by NQF and used to help inform the Standing Committee's measure gaps discussion. NQF will also share the information with HHS to inform CMS' Measure Inventory Pipeline, which is a reference for several stakeholders.

### MEASURE SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

To submit a measure, please complete the following:

- [Measure Submission Form](#) Please use the current 7.1 version.
- [Measure Steward Agreement](#) Please note that materials will not be accepted without submission of a fully executed *Measure Steward Agreement Form*. All materials not meeting this requirement will be returned to the sender.

**Conditions for Consideration:**

- The measure owner/steward verifies there is an identified responsible entity and process to maintain and update the measure on a schedule that is commensurate with the rate of clinical innovation, but at least every three years.<sup>1</sup>
- The intended use of the measure includes both public accountability and quality improvement.
- The measure is fully specified and [tested for reliability and validity](#). Measures that are not tested will not be accepted.
- The measure developer/steward attests that [harmonization](#) with related measures and issues with competing measures have been considered and addressed, as appropriate.
- The requested measure submission information is complete and responsive to the questions so that all the information needed to evaluate all criteria is provided.

**Submission Guidance:**

- [Developer Guidebook](#):
  - A Developer Guidebook as has been created to assist developers in the measure submission and evaluation process. The Guidebook contains all the information developers need to know when submitting a measure to NQF.
- ICD-10-CM/PCS:
  - As of October 1, 2015, measures specified with administrative claims data must submit a set of ICD-9-CM and ICD-10-CM/PCS codes. Click [here](#) for further information on this requirement.
- eMeasures or eQMs:
  - Must be specified in the Health Quality Measures Format (HQMF) and use the Quality Data Model (QDM) and value sets vetted through the National Library of Medicine's Value Set Authority Center (VSAC);
  - Review the [current measure evaluation criteria and guidance](#)
- Composite measures:
  - Please notify topical area staff if you plan to submit a composite measure

**Technical Assistance**

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<sup>1</sup> Measure stewards must execute a Measure Steward Agreement with NQF.

NQF staff will provide technical assistance to measure developers at any time during the measure submission process up to the measure submission deadline. Contact the topical area team with any questions about the criteria, how to answer the questions in the measure submission form, and any technical issues with the online submission process.

#### MEASURE SUBMISSION COMPLETENESS CHECKLIST

- Measure steward agreement or concept agreement is completed and signed.
- All conditions for submission are met.
- There are responses in all fields on measure submission form (MSF) unless a particular item is not applicable as indicated in the item instructions.
- Attachments include: eMeasure specifications (S.2a) if applicable; data dictionary/code list (S.2b); Evidence and Measure Testing attachments.
- All URLs are active and accurate.
- Harmonization/competing measures: Did you present a plan for harmonization of the related/competing measures identified by staff during early identification/triage or justify submitting competing or non-harmonized measures? (see Harmonization process in the [Developer Guidebook](#)).
- Paired measures should be submitted on separate forms.
- An eMeasure or eCQM must be specified in HQMF format, using QDM and value sets vetted through the VSAC.
- Composite performance measures: responses to the composite measure items are included.
- Both ICD-9 and ICD-10 codes are included.

#### RESOURCES FOR MEASURE DEVELOPERS AND STEWARDS

For more details on measure submission and evaluation, please see:

- [Submitting Standards Web Page](#)

The links below provide the most current criteria and guidance for evaluating the criteria as well as examples of responses for the measure submission form, and special reports.

- [Evidence Task Force Report](#)
- [Measure Testing Task Force Report](#)
- [Harmonization Report](#)
- [Competing Measures Report](#)

Evaluation and Measure Submission Guidance:

- [eMeasure Testing Guidance Report](#)
- [Guidance on Quality Performance Measure Construction](#)
- [Evidence and Importance to Measure and Report](#)
- [Measure Testing and Scientific Acceptability of Measure Properties](#)



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- [Composite Evaluation Criteria](#)
- [Resource Use Measure Evaluation Criteria](#)
- [Endorsement Maintenance Policy](#)



**APPENDIX A: ENDORSEMENT MAINTENANCE TOPICAL AREAS**

Endorsement and Maintenance Topical Areas	Cycle 1 Measure Submission Deadline	Cycle 2 Measure Submission Deadline	Brief Topical Area Description
<b>All-Cause Admissions and Readmissions</b>	November 8, 2017	April 9, 2018	NQF seeks to endorse measures focused on admission and readmission rates, both all-cause and specific to certain conditions such as heart failure.
<b>Behavioral Health and Substance Use</b>	November 1, 2017	April 2, 2018	NQF seeks to endorse measures focused on behavioral health conditions and substance abuse, attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), and depression, including screening, primary care, and treatment measures.
<b>Cancer</b>	November 15, 2017	April 16, 2018	NQF seeks to endorse measures focused on screening and treatment of breast, colon, prostate, esophageal, lung, and other cancers.
<b>Cardiovascular</b>	November 8, 2017	April 9, 2018	NQF seeks to endorse measures focused on hypertension, coronary artery disease, acute myocardial infarction, percutaneous coronary intervention, heart failure, and atrial fibrillation.
<b>Cost and Efficiency</b>	November 15, 2017	April 16, 2018	NQF seeks to endorse measures focused on cost of care, payment and efficiency for all conditions.
<b>Geriatric and Palliative Care</b>	November 15, 2017	April 16, 2018	NQF seeks to endorse measures focused on experience with care, care planning, pain management, dyspnea management, care preferences, and quality of care at the end of life.
<b>Neurology</b>	November 1, 2017	April 2, 2018	NQF seeks to endorse measures focused on stroke, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, dementia and Alzheimer’s disease, Parkinson’s disease, and traumatic brain injury.



Endorsement and Maintenance Topical Areas	Cycle 1 Measure Submission Deadline	Cycle 2 Measure Submission Deadline	Brief Topical Area Description
<b>Patient Experience and Function</b>	November 8, 2017	April 9, 2017	NQF seeks to endorse measures focused on health-related quality of life, patient and family engagement in care, functional status, symptom and symptom burden, experience with care, and care coordination.
<b>Patient Safety</b>	November 1, 2017	April 2, 2018	NQF seeks to endorse measures focused on pressure ulcers, healthcare-acquired conditions, sepsis, mortality rates, and medication management.
<b>Perinatal and Women's Health</b>	November 8, 2017	April 9, 2018	NQF seeks to endorse measures focused on reproductive health, pregnancy, prenatal care, delivery, immediate post-partum care for newborns, and childbirth-related issues for women.
<b>Prevention and Population Health</b>	November 15, 2018	April 16, 2018	NQF seeks to endorse measures focused on smoking, diet, disease incidence and prevalence), primary prevention and screening, practices to promote healthy living, community interventions, and modifiable social, economic, environmental determinants of health with a demonstrable relationship to prevention and population health.
<b>Primary Care and Chronic Illness</b>	November 8, 2017	April 9, 2018	NQF seeks to endorse measures focused on non-surgical eye conditions, non-surgical ear, nose, and throat, diabetes care, osteoporosis, HIV, rheumatoid arthritis, gout, back pain, asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and acute bronchitis.
<b>Renal</b>	November 1, 2017	April 2, 2018	NQF seeks to endorse measures focused on kidney disease.



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Endorsement and Maintenance Topical Areas	Cycle 1 Measure Submission Deadline	Cycle 2 Measure Submission Deadline	Brief Topical Area Description
<b>Surgery</b>	November 15, 2017	April 16, 2018	NQF seeks to endorse measures focused on pre-and post-surgical care, timing of prophylactic antibiotic, and adverse surgical outcomes.