

Community Tool to Align Measurement

USER GUIDE (February 2012)



NATIONAL
QUALITY FORUM

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Welcome to the Alignment Tool

The National Quality Forum's (NQF) **Community Tool to Align Measurement (Alignment Tool)**¹ was developed in collaboration with 16 community alliances in the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's *Aligning Forces for Quality (AF4Q)* program. It provides insight for those interested in starting or expanding measurement and public reporting in ways that align with others at the local, state, and national levels. The Alignment Tool includes NQF-endorsed[®] measures in use by the AF4Q Alliances, notations of which measures are also in certain national programs, and lessons from three communities about their use of specific measures. This tool was designed to support and motivate aligned measurement and public reporting, consistent with the National Quality Strategy, while recognizing state and community leaders' need for flexibility to address regional needs and interests.

The Alignment Tool and related information can be found on NQF's web site at:

www.qualityforum.org/AlignmentTool

Alignment Tool Components

The Alignment Tool includes two components:

Part I: Measure Spreadsheet

A Microsoft Excel² spreadsheet containing 171 NQF-endorsed measures in use in at least one of the 16 AF4Q Alliances as of February 2012.

Part II: Measure Use Experience Document

A document describing the measurement and public reporting experience of three AF4Q Alliances – Cincinnati, Detroit, and Maine – including specific information about many of the measures in use in each community.

This User Guide describes how to use the Alignment Tool to support measurement expansion, alignment, and collaboration needs.

¹ Support for the NQF Alignment Tool is provided by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (www.rwjf.org).

² This component is a Microsoft Excel 2010 file. If you use earlier versions of Microsoft Office, install the compatibility service pack to use the Tool:

<http://www.microsoft.com/download/en/details.aspx?displaylang=en&id=3>.

Alignment Tool Content

There are five tabs in the spreadsheet (Figure 1).

12	Breast Cancer Screening	Clinician Office			1					1		1
13	Cervical Cancer Screening	Clinician Office			1					1		1
	Chlamydia Screening in				1							

Navigation: |< < > >| **ALL** | AF4Q Alliances | National Programs & Initiatives | Your Measures in Use Template | Charts

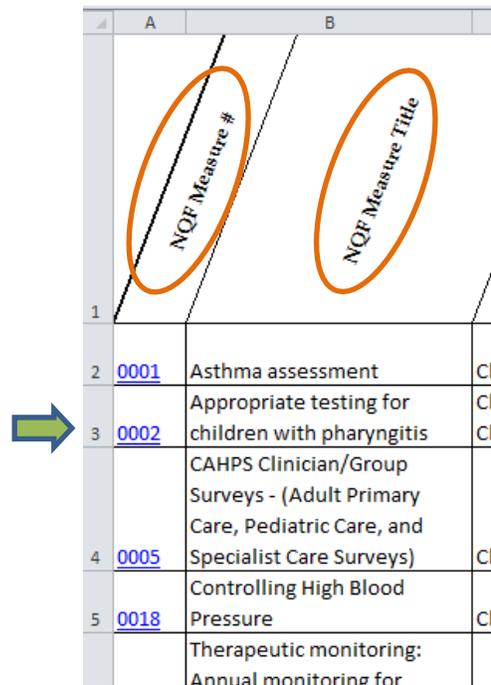
Figure 1: Alignment Tool Tabs

The content of each tab is explained in the table below, followed by a detailed explanation of the contents found within the ALL tab.

Tab Name	Content
ALL	All of the information in the Alignment Tool, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NQF Measure Number, Measure Title, and Care Setting - National Quality Strategy (NQS) Priorities - AF4Q Alliances' NQF-endorsed Measures in Use - Which of the NQF-endorsed Measures in Use are Included in National Programs and Initiatives
AF4Q Alliances	Information from the ALL tab limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NQF Measure Number, Measure Title, and Care Setting - NQS Priorities - AF4Q Alliances' NQF-endorsed Measures in Use
National Programs & Initiatives	Information from the ALL tab limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NQF Measure Number, Measure Title, and Care Setting - NQS Priorities - Which of the NQF-endorsed Measures in Use are Included in National Programs and Initiatives
Your Measures in Use Template	Information from the ALL tab limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NQF Measure Number, Measure Title, and Care Setting - NQS Priorities - Total Number of AF4Q Alliances Using a Given NQF-endorsed Measure - Total Number of National Programs and Initiatives that Include a Given NQF-endorsed Measure
Charts (followed by a tab including Chart Data)	Reference charts created from the ALL tab including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How the NQF-Endorsed Measures in Use by the AF4Q Alliances Map to the NQS Priorities - Frequency of Use of these NQF-endorsed Measures Across All AF4Q Alliances

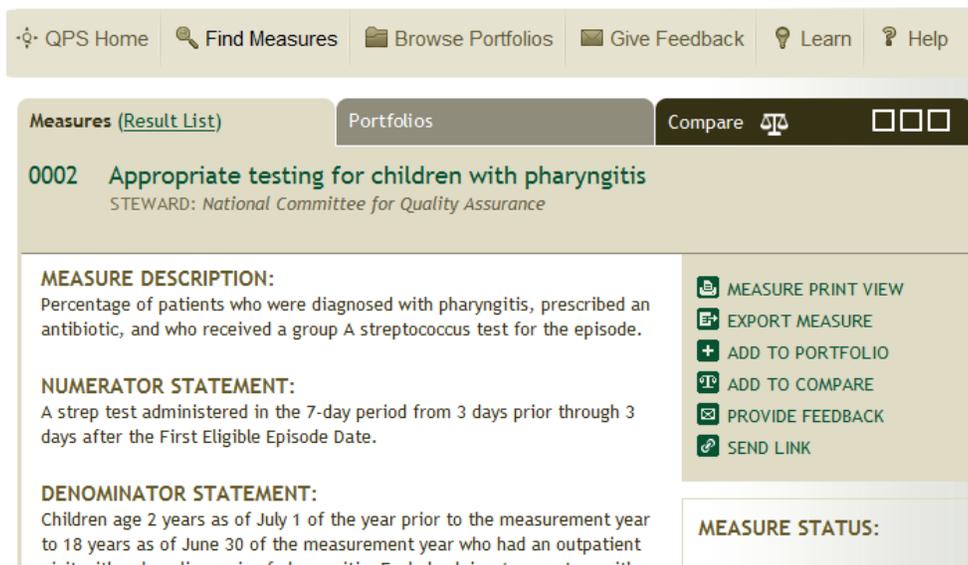
NQF Measure Number and NQF Measure Title

The first and second columns list the NQF measure number and measure title (Figure 2). Each NQF measure number is hyperlinked to the [Quality Positioning System \(QPS\)](#) – NQF’s online measure search tool – where additional information on the measure can be found (Figure 3). QPS allows you to view details about NQF-endorsed measures, see lists of endorsed measures (‘portfolios’) that are in use by or of interest to others, and compare measures or portfolios for deeper insight. QPS can be accessed at www.qualityforum.org/QPS.



	A	B	
1			
2	0001	Asthma assessment	CI
3	0002	Appropriate testing for children with pharyngitis	CI
4	0005	CAHPS Clinician/Group Surveys - (Adult Primary Care, Pediatric Care, and Specialist Care Surveys)	CI
5	0018	Controlling High Blood Pressure	CI
		Therapeutic monitoring: Annual monitoring for	

Figure 2: NQF Measure Number and Measure Title Columns



QPS Home Find Measures Browse Portfolios Give Feedback Learn Help

Measures (Result List) Portfolios Compare

0002 Appropriate testing for children with pharyngitis

STEWARDS: National Committee for Quality Assurance

MEASURE DESCRIPTION:
Percentage of patients who were diagnosed with pharyngitis, prescribed an antibiotic, and who received a group A streptococcus test for the episode.

NUMERATOR STATEMENT:
A strep test administered in the 7-day period from 3 days prior through 3 days after the First Eligible Episode Date.

DENOMINATOR STATEMENT:
Children age 2 years as of July 1 of the year prior to the measurement year to 18 years as of June 30 of the measurement year who had an outpatient visit with only a diagnosis of pharyngitis. Exclude claims/encounters with

- MEASURE PRINT VIEW
- EXPORT MEASURE
- ADD TO PORTFOLIO
- ADD TO COMPARE
- PROVIDE FEEDBACK
- SEND LINK

MEASURE STATUS:

Figure 3: Measure Details in QPS

Care Setting

The Care Setting column lists the care setting identified by the measure developer when the measure was endorsed (Figure 4). This indicates whether the measure was designated in the measure endorsement process as being appropriate for the ambulatory, hospital, or other setting(s).

	A	B	C	D
1	<i>NQF Measure #</i>	<i>NQF Measure Title</i>	<i>Care Setting</i>	<i>Afford...</i>
2	0001	Asthma assessment	Clinician Office	
3	0002	Appropriate testing for children with pharyngitis	Clinic/Urgent Care, Clinician Office	1
4	0005	CAHPS Clinician/Group Surveys - (Adult Primary Care, Pediatric Care, and Specialist Care Surveys)	Clinician Office	
		Controlling High Blood		

Figure 4: Care Setting Column

National Quality Strategy Priorities

The six colored columns list the National Quality Strategy (NQS) priorities (Figure 5). Each measure in the Tool has been tagged to show the NQS priority or priorities it best supports.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
<i>NQF Measure #</i>	<i>NQF Measure Title</i>	<i>Care Setting</i>		<i>Affordable Care</i>	<i>Effective Communication and Care Coordination</i>	<i>Health and Well-Being</i>	<i>Patient Safety</i>	<i>Person- and Family-Centered Care</i>	<i>Prevention and Treatment of Leading Causes of Mortality</i>	<i>Cincinnati/AFHQ</i>	<i>Detroit</i>
0001	Asthma assessment	Clinician Office						1			<u>1</u>
0002	Appropriate testing for children with pharyngitis	Clinic/Urgent Care, Clinician Office	1								<u>1</u>
0005	CAHPS Clinician/Group Surveys - (Adult Primary Care, Pediatric Care, and Specialist Care Surveys)	Clinician Office				1			<u>1</u>		<u>1</u>
	Controlling High Blood										

Figure 5: Measures Mapped to National Quality Strategy Priorities

Measure Use in the AF4Q Alliances

The 16 columns following the NQS priority areas list the NQF-endorsed measures in use by each of the 16 AF4Q Alliances. The “1” under each alliance indicates which NQF-endorsed measure is in use by that community (Figure 6). The blue column provides the total number of alliances using each measure.

Each AF4Q Alliance provided to NQF the measures they have in use and worked with NQF to determine which of those measures are NQF-endorsed. Alliances took different approaches in deciding which measures to report as “in use”, sometimes including measures used in collaboration with other organizations in their region. The alliances use more measures than listed here, including measures that are not NQF-endorsed. The information in the Tool is current as of February 2012.

	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	AA
Prevention and Treatment of Leading Causes of Mortality																		
Cincinnati AF4Q			1															
Detroit AF4Q																		
Maine AF4Q																		
Albuquerque AF4Q																		
Cleveland AF4Q																		
Greater Boston, MA AF4Q																		
Humboldt County, CA AF4Q																		
Kansas City, MO AF4Q																		
Memphis, TN AF4Q																		
Minnesota AF4Q																		
Oregon AF4Q																		
Puget Sound, WA AF4Q																		
South Central, WA AF4Q																		
West Michigan AF4Q																		
Western New York AF4Q																		
Wisconsin AF4Q																		
Total AF4Qs Using Measure																	1	1
Bridges to Excellence																		
Recogniti...																		
	1		1				1										3	

Figure 6: Each AF4Q Alliance’s NQF-endorsed Measures in Use

The name of each AF4Q Alliance is hyperlinked to that alliance’s published list, or ‘portfolio’, of NQF-endorsed measures in QPS (see arrow in Figure 6). Clicking on the hyperlink will take you to the QPS portfolio page for that alliance and allow you to view the list of NQF-endorsed measures they use, compare measures and portfolios, and save your own copy of a portfolio, among other actions (Figure 7).

While the information in the Tool is a ‘snapshot in time’, the portfolios published in QPS provide the most up-to-date information for the NQF-endorsed measures in use in the 16 AF4Q Alliances.

QPS Home Find Measures Browse Portfolios Give Feedback Learn Help

Measures (745) Portfolios (Result List) Compare

GDAHC Publicly Reported Measures
OWNER ORGANIZATION: Greater Detroit Area Health Council

DESCRIPTION:
These measures are used by the Greater Detroit Area Health Council in public reports of Physician Organization and Hospital performance at www.myCareCompare.org.

OWNER KEYWORDS:
Detroit, GDAHC, Southeast Michigan, AF4Q, Michigan, MI

HISTORY

Owner Organization: Greater Detroit Area Health Council	Created Date: September 27, 2011
Owner: Lisa Mason	Last Modified Date: January 10, 2012

Are you the portfolio owner?
Log in to manage this portfolio.

- PRINT PORTFOLIO REPORT
- PORTFOLIO PRINT VIEW
- EXPORT MEASURES
- CONTACT OWNER
- SEND LINK
- SUBSCRIBE
- CREATE COPY
- ADD TO COMPARE

Figure 7: Example of an AF4Q Alliance’s Published QPS Portfolio

Measure Use Experience from the Cincinnati, Detroit, and Maine AF4Q Alliances

The AF4Q Alliances in Cincinnati, Detroit, and Maine worked closely with NQF to share their experiences in using specific NQF-endorsed measures (see grey columns in Figure 6 on previous page). When measure-specific experience insights have been provided by one of these three communities, the “1” will hyperlink (Figure 8) to Part II of the Alignment Tool – a PDF document that presents this measure-specific use experience as well as a ‘measurement story’ for each of the three alliances. Those stories include an in-depth account of these alliances’ measure selection processes, how they share and use measure results, and impacts observed thus far.

	J	K	L	M	N
tion and Treatment of					
Leading Causes of Mortality					
Cincinnati AF4Q					
Detroit AF4Q					
Maine AF4Q					
Albuquerque A...					
			1		
		1			
	1				

Figure 8: Hyperlink to Alliances’ Experience in Using Specific Measures

National Programs and Initiatives

The remaining columns list several national programs and initiatives that include at least one NQF-endorsed measure that is in use by an AF4Q Alliance (Figure 9). The yellow column provides the total number of national programs or initiatives that include a given measure listed in the Tool.

The name of each of the national programs and initiatives is hyperlinked either to the published lists, or ‘portfolios’, in QPS of the NQF-endorsed measures included in that specific program (Figure 10), or to the online source for more information about that initiative ([Resources List](#)).

	AA	AB	AC	AD	AE	AF	AG	AH	AI	AJ	AK	AL	AM	AN	AO	AP	AQ	AR	AS	AT	PA
	Total AF4Qs Using Measure	Bridges to Excellence Care Recognition Programs	CMS Child Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA)	CMS Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting	CMS Hospital Outpatient Quality Reporting	CMS Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility Quality Reporting	CMS Long-Term Care Hospital Quality Reporting	CMS Medicaid Adult Quality Report (Adult Core)	CMS Meaningful Use - Medicare and Medicaid EHR for Eligible Professionals	CMS Meaningful Use - Medicare and Medicaid EHR for Hospitals and CAHs	CMS Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS)	CMS Shared Savings Program (ACOs)	CMS Value-Based Payment Modifier	CMS Value-Based Purchasing	HHS Hospital Purchasing	HRSA Maternal and Child Health Bureau	Leapfrog Hospital Measures	NCOA HEDIS Health Plan Measures	NCOA HEDIS Physician Measures	ONC Beacon 1 Beacon Community	Total National Initiatives Using Measure
	1							1		1		1							1		4
		1						1		1		1					1	1			6

Figure 9: Select National Programs and Initiatives Columns

The screenshot shows the QPS interface with a navigation bar at the top containing links for QPS Home, Find Measures, Browse Portfolios, Give Feedback, Learn, and Help. Below the navigation bar, there are tabs for 'Measures (757)' and 'Portfolios (Result List)'. The main content area displays the details for a portfolio titled 'Bridges to Excellence Care Recognition Programs' owned by HCI3. The description states that these programs are for high-value care for patients with chronic conditions. The owner keywords include BTE, HCI3, diabetes, CAD, CHF, asthma, COPD, back pain, and htn. The history section shows the owner organization as HCI3, created on February 08, 2012, by Jessica DiLorenzo, and last modified on February 09, 2012. On the right side, there is a section for 'Are you the portfolio owner?' with a list of actions: PRINT PORTFOLIO REPORT, PORTFOLIO PRINT VIEW, EXPORT MEASURES, CONTACT OWNER, SEND LINK, SUBSCRIBE, CREATE COPY, and ADD TO COMPARE. At the bottom, there is a table titled 'MEASURES WITHIN THIS PORTFOLIO (35 MEASURES):' with columns for TITLE, NQF#, STEWARD, UPDATED, and ACTIONS. The first row shows 'Acute Myocardial Infarction' with NQF# 0071, stewarded by the National Committee for Quality Assurance, and updated on Jan 18, 2012.

Figure 10: Example of a National Program’s Published QPS Portfolio

Ideas for Using the Alignment Tool

There are many potential uses for the **NQF Community Tool to Align Measurement (Alignment Tool)** that can help meet your needs. Several ideas are listed below, followed by instructions that will help you implement the ideas:

IDEA 1: Examine the measures you use to find opportunities to align with others

Complete the Your Measures in Use Template tab

List the NQF-endorsed measures you use in the *Your Measures in Use Template*, drawing from measures already listed in the Tool or NQF's online measure search tool, the [Quality Positioning System](#). Then search, sort, and compare your measures in use with others to help guide your decision-making.

IDEA 2: Ensure you are well-positioned for public- and private-sector payment incentives

Sort and filter the Tool's content to see where your measurement is aligned with one or more of the National Quality Strategy priorities that drive national reporting requirements and performance-based payment. Learn from others who are already measuring in key priority areas to help you begin to address gaps in your measurement.

IDEA 3: Reduce measurement overload and burden by aligning with 'high-value' measures

Sort and filter the Tool's content based on certain national programs or initiatives, then compare the measures you use to identify opportunities to better align with national requirements and performance-based payment incentives. See which alliances are already using specific measures to learn from their practical experience and inform your implementation efforts.

IDEA 4: See who is using measures in areas where you want to align or expand, then learn from their experience to inform your implementation plans

Scan the Alignment Tool to identify measures that are similar to measures you are using, and then compare them in the [Quality Positioning System](#). If the measures are in use by the AF4Q Alliances in Cincinnati, Detroit, or Maine, review their measurement experience information. Or contact any of the 16 AF4Q Alliances that are already using the measure(s) of interest to you to learn about their experiences ([Resources List](#)).

IDEA 5: Consider how others describe measures in their public report to avoid duplication of effort and increase consistency in approaches

Identify NQF-endorsed measures you are using or would like to use. Then, if the measures are in use by the AF4Q Alliances in Cincinnati, Detroit, or Maine, see the [Measurement Use Experience document](#) for examples of plain language versions of the measure name. Or contact any of the 16 AF4Q Alliances that use the measure(s) to find out how they publicly report on those measures of interest ([Resources List](#)).

IDEA 6: Avoid duplicated effort and increase consistency in public reports by linking any NQF-endorsed measures you use to measure information in QPS

Rather than developing and maintaining your own technical information about each NQF-endorsed measure in your public report, for each measure include the NQF measure number in your public report and hyperlink to the measure's page in the [Quality Positioning System](#).

IDEA 7: Help improve understanding of practical measurement successes and challenges by sharing your measures and 'measurement story'

Create your own portfolio of measures in the [Quality Positioning System](#) and use QPS to submit feedback on specific measures. Tell NQF more about your community or region's measurement and reporting efforts by sending your story to communities@qualityforum.org.

How to Implement These and Other Ideas

Detailed below are the specific ways to use the Tool to implement the above ideas and other potential uses of the Tool:

- Search and find measures (see [page 11](#))
- Sort and filter the content of the Tool to focus on a certain area such as a National Quality Strategy priority area or a national initiative (see [page 11](#))
- Compare measure details (see [page 12](#))
- Compare measures used in certain alliances or national programs (see [page 14](#))
- Explore specific measurement experiences from certain alliances (see [page 17](#))

Search and Find Measures

To locate a particular measure, use the “Find” function in Microsoft Excel³ to search by NQF measure number, keyword, or care setting.

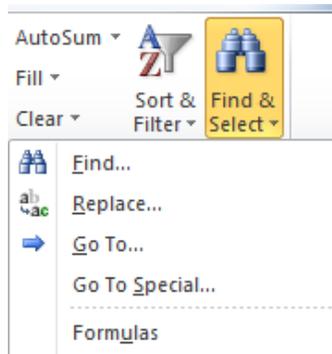


Figure 11: Microsoft Excel 2010 “Find” Function

Sort and Filter the Content of the Tool

For advanced searches, use the “Sort” and “Filter” Excel functions. Figure 12 shows an example of filtering content in the Tool to find measures about ‘screening’.

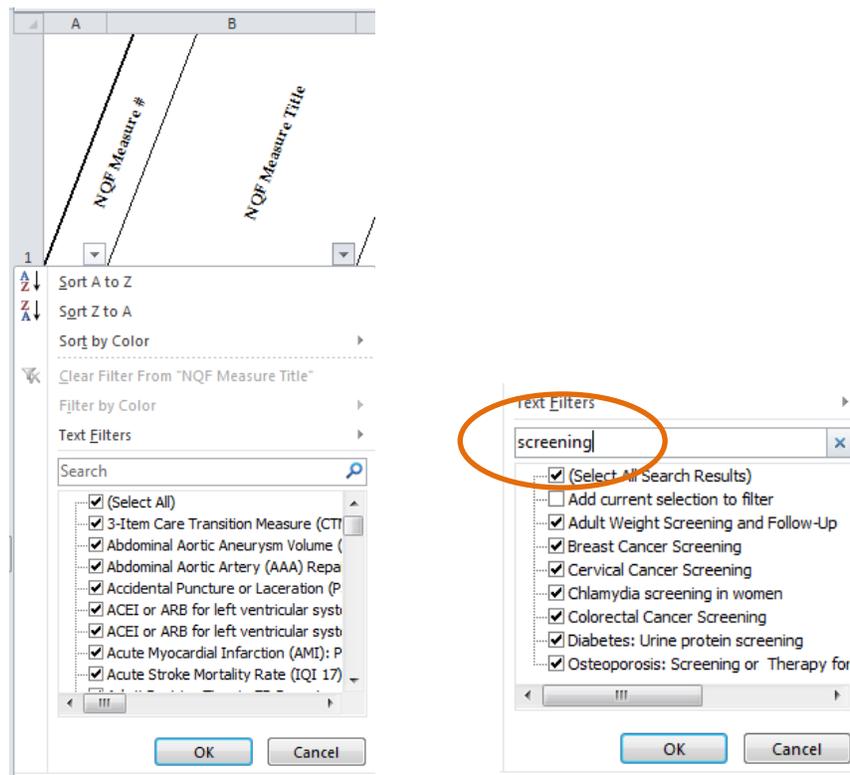


Figure 12: Search Box for Finding Measures in the Alignment Tool

³ This component is a Microsoft Excel 2010 file. If you use earlier versions of Microsoft Office, install the compatibility service pack to use the Tool:

<http://www.microsoft.com/download/en/details.aspx?displaylang=en&id=3>.

Microsoft Excel indicates when a spreadsheet has been filtered or narrowed by displaying a funnel-like icon at the top of a column (Figure 13).

	A	B	C	D
1		<i>NQF Measure #</i>	<i>NQF Measure Title</i>	<i>Care Setting</i>
2	0031	Breast Cancer Screening	Clinician Office	
3	0032	Cervical Cancer Screening	Clinician Office	
4	0034	Colorectal Cancer Screening	Clinician Office	
		Diabetes: Urine protein		

Figure 13: Indication in Microsoft Excel that Results are Filtered

Compare Measure Details

To find and use measure details (numerator, denominator, exclusions, measure steward, and other information) in NQF’s online measure search tool, the [Quality Positioning System \(QPS\)](#), follow these steps:

- From the Alignment Tool, click on the hyperlinked NQF measure number (Figure 14).

	A	B	
1		<i>NQF Measure #</i>	<i>NQF Measure Title</i>
2	0001	Asthma assessment	Clir
3	0002	Appropriate testing for children with pharyngitis	Clir
4	0005	CAHPS Clinician/Group Surveys - (Adult Primary Care, Pediatric Care, and Specialist Care Surveys)	Clir

Figure 14: NQF Measure Number Hyperlinked to QPS

- You will be taken to that measure’s details in QPS (Figure 15).

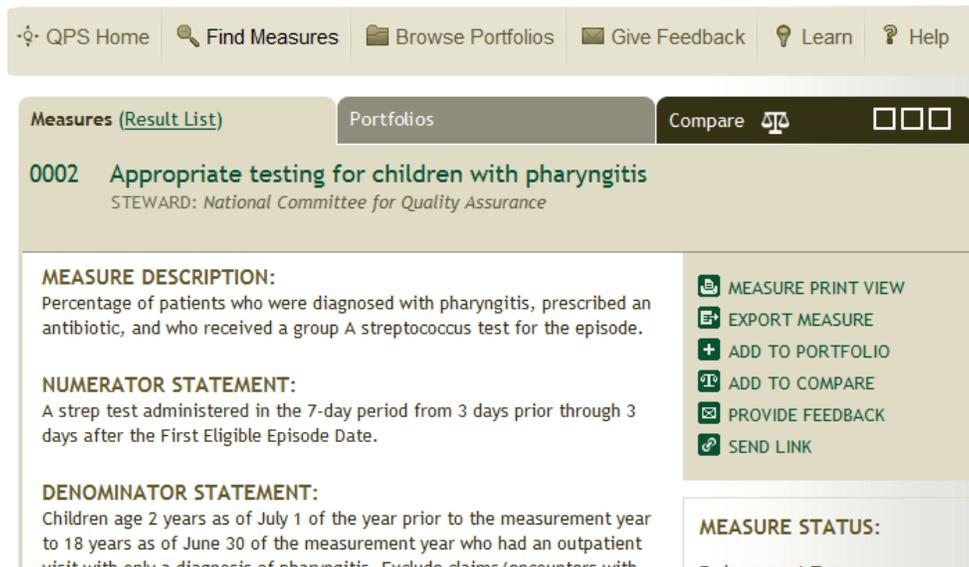


Figure 15: Measure Details in QPS

- In QPS, to add a measure to a comparison, click on “Add to Compare” from the action menu in the measure details page (Figure 16). Use the Alignment Tool or QPS to find additional measures of interest. You can compare up to three measures at a time.

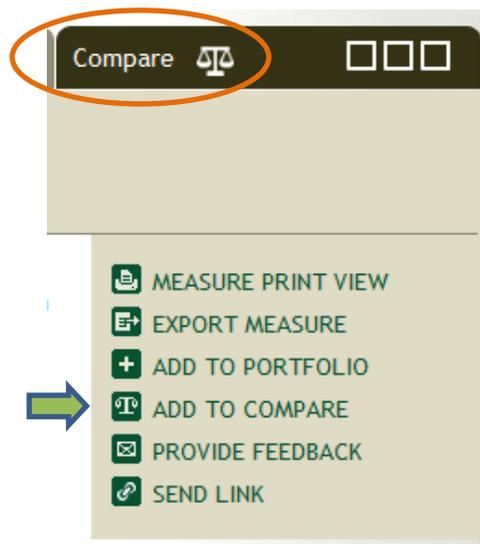


Figure 16: How to Compare NQF-endorsed Measures in QPS

Compare Measures Used in Alliances or National Programs

To compare the use of measures of specific AF4Q Alliances within the Alignment Tool, use the “Hide” and “Unhide” function in Excel. You can also compare alliances’ lists of measures, or ‘portfolios’, in QPS on the NQF website.

- From the Alignment Tool, click on the AF4Q Alliance name (Figure 17).

J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	AA
Prevention and Treatment of Leading Causes of Mortality																	
Cincinnati AF4Q																	
Detroit AF4Q																	1
Maine AF4Q																	
Albuquerque AF4Q																	
Cleveland AF4Q																	
Greater Boston, MA AF4Q																	
Humboldt County, CA AF4Q																	
Kansas City, MO AF4Q																	
Memphis, TN AF4Q																	
Minnesota AF4Q																	
Oregon AF4Q																	
Puget Sound, WA AF4Q																	
South Central, TX AF4Q																	
West Michigan AF4Q																	
Western New York AF4Q																	
Wisconsin AF4Q																	
Total AF4Qs Using Measure																	7
Beacon (for n...)																	

Figure 17: AF4Q Alliances’ Measures in Use Hyperlinked to QPS

- You will be taken to that AF4Q Alliance’s published portfolio in QPS (Figure 18).

QPS Home Find Measures Browse Portfolios Give Feedback Learn Help

Measures (745) Portfolios (Result List) Compare

GDAHC Publicly Reported Measures

OWNER ORGANIZATION: Greater Detroit Area Health Council

DESCRIPTION:
These measures are used by the Greater Detroit Area Health Council in public reports of Physician Organization and Hospital performance at www.myCareCompare.org.

OWNER KEYWORDS:
Detroit, GDAHC, Southeast Michigan, AF4Q, Michigan, MI

HISTORY

Owner Organization: Greater Detroit Area Health Council
Created Date: September 27, 2011

Owner: Lisa Mason
Last Modified Date: January 10, 2012

Are you the portfolio owner? Log in to manage this portfolio.

- PRINT PORTFOLIO REPORT
- PORTFOLIO PRINT VIEW
- EXPORT MEASURES
- CONTACT OWNER
- SEND LINK
- SUBSCRIBE
- CREATE COPY
- ADD TO COMPARE

Figure 18: Example of AF4Q Alliance’s Published QPS Portfolio

- To add the portfolio to a comparison, click on “Add to Compare” from the action menu in the portfolio’s page in QPS (Figure 19). Use the Alignment Tool or QPS to find additional portfolios of interest. You can compare up to three portfolios at a time.

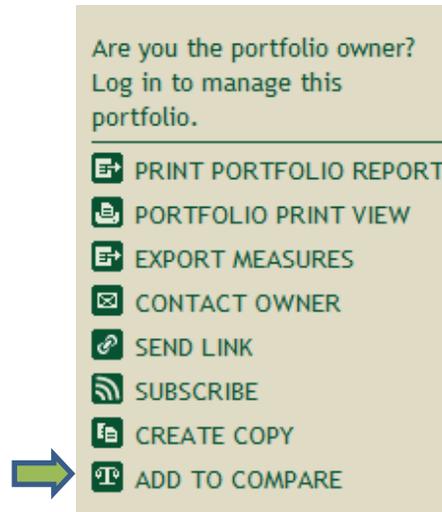


Figure 19: How to Compare Portfolios in QPS on the NQF Website

- To view the list of all 16 AF4Q Alliances’ published portfolios in QPS, search QPS portfolios using the keyword “AF4Q” (Figure 20).



Figure 20: How to Search for All AF4Q Alliances’ Published Portfolios in QPS

While the information in the Tool is a ‘snapshot in time’, the portfolios published in QPS provide the most up-to-date information for the NQF-endorsed measures in use in the 16 AF4Q Alliances.

- Figure 21 shows a comparison in QPS of an AF4Q Alliance portfolio to a national program’s portfolio.

Measures (765)		Portfolios (34)		Compare	
				EXPORT PRINT	
	+ VIEW PORTFOLIO x REMOVE FROM COMPARE OPEN IN NEW WINDOW		+ VIEW PORTFOLIO x REMOVE FROM COMPARE OPEN IN NEW WINDOW		
Portfolio Title	GDAHc Publicly Reported Measures		ONC Beacon Communities' Measures in Use		
Portfolio Description	These measures are used by the Greater Detroit Area Health Council in public reports of Physician Organization and Hospital performance at www.myCareCompare.org .		This portfolio reflects a draft list of measures in use by at least one Beacon community. Information on Office of the National Coordinator for HIT (ONC)-funded Beacon communities: www.healthit.gov/providers-professionals/beacon-communities .		
Owner Organization	Greater Detroit Area Health Council		National Quality Forum		
Owner Keywords	Detroit, GDAHc, Southeast Michigan, AF4Q, Michigan, MI		Beacon, ONC		
Created Date	Sep 27, 2011		Feb 13, 2012		
Last Modified Date	Feb 02, 2012		Feb 17, 2012		
Common Measure(s)					
Portfolio Title	GDAHc Publicly Reported Measures		ONC Beacon Communities' Measures in Use		
NQF#0031	Breast Cancer Screening : NQF#0031				
NQF#0338	CAC-3: Home Management Plan of Care (HMPC) Document Given to Patient/Caregiver : NQF#0338				
NQF#0038	Childhood Immunization Status : NQF#0038				
NQF#0034	Colorectal Cancer Screening : NQF#0034				
NQF#0064	Diabetes Measure Pair: A Lipid management: low density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C) <130, B Lipid management: LDL-C <100 : NQF#0064				
NQF#0059	Diabetes: Hemoglobin A1c Poor Control (>9.0%) : NQF#0059				
NQF#0057	Diabetes: Hemoglobin A1c testing : NQF#0057				
NQF#0063	Diabetes: Lipid profile : NQF#0063				

Figure 21: Example of Portfolio Comparison in QPS

Explore Specific Measurement Experiences from Certain Communities

In Part II of the Alignment Tool – the [Measure Use Experience document](#) – the Cincinnati, Detroit, and Maine AF4Q Alliances provide details on their measurement and reporting efforts for some of their measures in use. A hyperlinked “1” in the spreadsheet component of the Tool indicates that more information can be found in the Measure Use Experience document. See Figure 22 for an example of a measure-specific experience summary.

[NQF #0064: Diabetes Measure Pair: a. Lipid management: low density lipoprotein cholesterol \(LDL-C\) < 130, b. Lipid management: LDL-C < 100](#)

AF4Q Alliances Using This Measure (10): Albuquerque; Cincinnati; Cleveland; Detroit; Humboldt County, CA; Kansas City, MO; Maine; South Central PA; West Michigan; Wisconsin

Plain Language Measure Name Example(s):

- “Keep bad cholesterol (LDL) under 100 mg/dl” (Cincinnati AF4Q)
- “Controlling cholesterol for patients with diabetes” (Detroit AF4Q)
- “Triglycerides” (Maine AF4Q)

Cincinnati AF4Q Measure Selection: This measure is part of the diabetes composite score from Minnesota Community Measurement (MNCM), as well as for Bridges to Excellence (BTE) and National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) recognition scoring.

Cincinnati AF4Q Impacts Observed: The 2010 Greater Cincinnati Regional Average for this measure is 56%. This means that 56 out of 100 diabetes patients have bad cholesterol under control.

[View Cincinnati AF4Q’s general approach to measurement and reporting](#)

Figure 22: Example of Measure-Specific Information Found in Part II of Tool

The Cincinnati, Detroit, and Maine AF4Q Alliances also contributed detailed accounts of their measurement and reporting experiences. Each community’s ‘measurement story’ provides details on the following areas:

- Community profile
- Measure selection
- Data source(s)
- Measure details
- Plain language
- Use of measure results
- Impacts observed
- Experience using its measures
- Contact information

Figure 23 shows an excerpt of the information included in one of the measurement stories.

Measure Selection – How and why Maine decided to use specific measures

Maine relies as much as possible on national metrics and performance measurement according to the following principles:

1. Utilizing performance measurement results produced by national or regional entities pursuant to vetting and endorsement by appropriate Pathways to Excellence Steering Committees. MHMC will only collect and analyze data when it is not available from other entities or when collecting it themselves would drive more beneficial change or be more cost effective.
2. Adopting and utilizing all available performance measures endorsed by the National Quality Forum, AQA Alliance, and other expert entities unless there is a technical or compelling reason to reject an individual measure.
3. Recognizing the differences among measures that measure high performance and those that measure basic competency or minimum thresholds of performance.

These principles led Maine to focus its data collection and reporting efforts on areas and conditions where data on outcomes of care could be assessed through measurement. For primary care practices, Maine reports ratings on the following areas of focus through its PTE program:

Office Systems: using a standard office systems survey that queries practices for use of systems known to improve quality and safety, such as use of Electronic Health Records (EHRs), chronic disease registries, e-prescribing, and nurse care management. Maine has a new “Advanced Primary Care” recognition program designed to recognize those practices moving toward becoming patient-centered medical homes.

Adult Care Clinical Outcomes: for conditions such as diabetes, and cardiovascular clinical outcomes, using national recognition programs such as the Bridges to Excellence (BTE) and National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) physician recognition programs. Maine will be adding recognition for other clinical recognition programs from BTE or NCQA as they are developed.

Specialty Care Systems of Care and Clinical Outcomes: for care by cardiovascular and orthopedic specialty care providers.

Pediatric Care Clinical Outcomes: for delivery of chronic care for children, including asthma, and for delivery of preventive services, such as immunizations.

Figure 23: Excerpt of ‘Measurement Story’ Found in Part II of Tool

Additional Resources

National Programs and Initiatives

National Program or Initiative	Web Site for More Information	Portfolio in QPS?
Bridges to Excellence	www.hci3.org	Yes
CMS Child Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA)	www.cms.gov/MedicaidCHIPQualPrac/Downloads/CHIPRACoreSetTechManual.pdf	
CMS Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting	www.cms.gov/HospitalQualityInits/08_HospitalRHQDAPU.asp	
CMS Hospital Outpatient Quality Reporting	www.cms.gov/HospitalQualityInits/10_HospitalOutpatientQualityReportingProgram.asp	
CMS Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility Quality Reporting	www.cms.gov/LTCH-IRF-Hospice-Quality-Reporting	
CMS Long-Term Care Hospital Quality Reporting	www.cms.gov/LTCH-IRF-Hospice-Quality-Reporting	
CMS Medicaid Adult Quality Report (Adult Core)	www.federalregister.gov/articles/2012/01/04/2011-33756/medicaid-program-initial-core-set-of-health-care-quality-measures-for-medicare-eligible-adults	
CMS Meaningful Use: Medicare and Medicaid EHR for Eligible Professionals and Medicare and Medicaid EHR for Hospitals and Critical Access Hospitals (CAH)	www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms/30_Meaningful_Use.asp	Yes
CMS Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS)	www.cms.gov/PQRS	
CMS Shared Savings Program (Accountable Care Organizations)	www.cms.gov/sharedsavingsprogram	
CMS Value-Based Modifier Payment Program	www.cms.gov/PhysicianFeedbackProgram	
CMS Value-Based Purchasing	www.cms.gov/Hospital-Value-Based-Purchasing	
HHS Hospital Compare	www.hospitalcompare.hhs.gov/hospital-search.aspx	
HRSA Maternal and Child Health	www.mchb.hrsa.gov	Yes
Leapfrog Hospital Measures	www.leapfroggroup.org	
NCQA HEDIS Health Plan and Physician Programs	www.ncqa.org/tabid/59/default.aspx	Yes
ONC Beacon Communities	www.healthit.gov/providers-professionals/beacon-community-centers	Yes

Other Related Resources

Related Resource	Web Site for More Information
Aligning Forces for Quality (AF4Q)	www.forces4quality.org
National Quality Forum	www.qualityforum.org
Quality Positioning System (QPS)	www.qualityforum.org/QPS
National Quality Strategy work led by HHS Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)	www.ahrq.gov/workingforquality/nqs
National Priorities Partnership (NPP)	www.qualityforum.org/Setting_Priorities/NPP/National Priorities Partnership.aspx
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF)	www.rwjf.org

To view the list of all 16 AF4Q Alliances' published portfolios in the [Quality Positioning System \(QPS\)](#), search QPS portfolios using the keyword "AF4Q" (see [Figure 20](#)).

Provide Feedback

It is important that NQF learn from your experience using the Alignment Tool. Please let us know what you like about the Tool and how it can be improved to better support your needs.

Send us your feedback at communities@qualityforum.org.