

Measure Developer Webinar



NATIONAL
QUALITY FORUM

October 20, 2014

2014-2015 Endorsement and Maintenance Schedule

Project	Date Call for Measures Opens	Measure Submission Deadline
NEW Cardiovascular Phase 2	N/A (Not accepting new submissions)	N/A (Not accepting new submissions)
NEW Surgery Phase 2	Currently open	12/31/2014
NEW Health and Well Being Phase 2	Currently open	1/16/2015
NEW Renal*	Currently open	2/27/2015
NEW HEENT*	Currently open	3/27/2015
NEW Patient Safety Phase 2	Currently open	4/10/2015
NEW Cardiovascular Phase 3	Currently open	6/30/2015
<i>Person and Family Centered Care Phase 2</i>	<i>Currently open</i>	<i>11/7/2014</i>
<i>Endocrine Cycle 3</i>	<i>Currently open</i>	<i>12/5/2014</i>

*HEENT and Renal Calls for Measures and Calls for Nominations are open.

2014-2015 Endorsement and Maintenance Schedule (cont.)

- Project start dates announced via NQFGO.
- Measure assignments are available on your Dashboard.
 - Project leads will contact you if measures due for maintenance review
- Update “Attachment A” of Measure Steward Agreement with newly submitted measures (no need to re-sign MSA or include measures in earlier versions of “Attachment A”)
- Technical assistance available (outside of project)
 - Contact Maintenance Team at maintenance@qualityforum.org with questions

2014-2015 Endorsement and Maintenance- Project Pages

- Project pages are now available to gain more information.



2014-2015 Endorsement and Maintenance- Project Pages (cont.)

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Cardiovascular Measures 2014

ATTEND: In-person Meeting, Dec 4-5
IN-PERSON MEETING

Cardiovascular Measures 2015

SUBMIT MEASURE: through Jun 30, 6:00pm
30 JUN SUBMIT MEASURE
Closes at 6:00pm ET

2014-2015 Endorsement and Maintenance- Project Pages (cont.)



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Cardiovascular Measures 2014

The Cardiovascular project is now beginning its second phase of review and endorsement. For Phase 2, NQF will seek to identify and endorse new measures to assess cardiovascular conditions at any level of analysis or setting of care, and measures scheduled for maintenance.

Overview

Description

Events

Materials

Measures

2014-2015 Endorsement and Maintenance- Project Pages (cont.)

- Project-specific technical assistance provided if needed.

Contact Information

For more information, please contact Wunmi Isijola at 202-783-1300 or via email at cardiovascular@qualityforum.org.

Risk Adjustment for Sociodemographic (SDS) Factors Trial Period



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Why Consider SDS Adjustment Now?

- Overall quality has improved, but disparities have not
- Growing evidence regarding role of SDS factors on many outcomes
- Evidence-based interventions that could help close the gap require additional resources
- Stratification has largely failed to materialize
- Shift from process to outcomes reporting
- Higher financial stakes has heightened concern, especially for safety net providers

At Least Two Divergent Views

- Adjusting for sociodemographic factors will mask disparities
- Adjusting for sociodemographic factors is necessary to avoid making incorrect inferences in the context of comparative performance assessment

Oppose Adjustment for Sociodemographic Factors

- Some providers may deliver worse quality care to disadvantaged patients
- Adjustment could make meaningful differences in quality disappear
- Worse outcomes could be expected
 - No expectation to improve
 - Implies or sets a different standard
- Lack of adequate data for SDS adjustment
- Prefer payment approach to help safety net

Support Adjustment for Sociodemographic Factors

- Risk adjustment allows for comparative performance
- A performance score alone (whether or not adjusted for sociodemographic factors) cannot identify disparities.
- Hospitals caring for the disadvantaged are already being penalized.
- No evidence that disparities would be reduced through further negative financial incentives.
- Lack of adjustment would continue to create a disincentive to care for the poor.

NQF Risk Adjustment and SES Expert Panel:

Key Points

- Each measure must be assessed individually to determine if SDS adjustment appropriate.
- Not all outcomes should be adjusted for SDS factors (e.g., central line infection would not be adjusted)
 - Need conceptual basis (logical rationale, theory) and empirical evidence
- The recommendations apply to any level of analysis including health plans, facilities, and individual clinicians.

What is the trial period?

- The NQF Board of Directors ratified CSAC's recommendation to proceed with a trial period for SDS adjustment prior to a permanent change in NQF policy.
- During the trial period, the NQF policy which restricts use of SDS factors in statistical risk models will be suspended and NQF will implement the Risk Adjustment Expert Panel's recommendations.

What is the trial period?

- More specifically:
 - During the trial, whether a performance measure should be adjusted for SDS is determined by the Standing Committee for each individual measure.
 - Where there is a potential conceptual and empirical basis for SDS adjustment, the Committee will evaluate whether the developer assessed SDS factors according to guidelines for selecting risk factors to determine whether to include in adjustment or not.
 - If a performance measure is SDS-adjusted, the measure developer must include specifications for stratification of a non-SDS adjusted version of the measure and specifications for a non-SDS adjusted overall score.

What are the goals of the trial period?

- Provide more information about the effects of SDS adjustment on measure results and inform future NQF policy.
- Compare SDS and clinically adjusted measures to clinically adjusted alone to generate knowledge that will be needed to inform policy.

What would be the results?

- During the trial period if SDS adjustment is determined to be appropriate for a given measure, NQF will endorse one measure with specifications to compute:
 - the SDS adjusted measure;
 - the non-SDS adjusted (clinically adjusted only) version of the measure;
 - Stratification of the non-SDS adjusted version.
 - » Specifications for stratification should always accompany an SDS-adjusted measure to identify any disparities
- SDS-adjusted measures may be submitted to any project during the trial period.

What are the next steps?

- NQF staff is updating the measure submission form to allow developers to provide information on any SDS factors included in their risk adjustment model.
- On the November 17, monthly measure developer call we will provide training on the revised measure submission form.
- NQF will be launching a call for nominations for the Disparities Standing Committee that will evaluate the trial period and monitor for any unintended consequences.
- The trial period will begin in early 2015.

Questions?

- For questions regarding the trial period, please contact:
 - Erin O'Rourke, eorourke@qualityforum.org
 - Elisa Munthali, emunthali@qualityforum.org
 - Taroon Amin, tamin@qualityforum.org

Next Steps

- Next scheduled webinar will be Monday, November 17, 2014 from 1:00-2:00pm EST.