



Measure Information

This document contains the information submitted by measure developers/stewards, but is organized according to NQF's measure evaluation criteria and process. The item numbers refer to those in the submission form but may be in a slightly different order here. In general, the item numbers also reference the related criteria (e.g., item 1b.1 relates to sub criterion 1b).

Brief Measure Information

NQF #: 2525ee

Corresponding Measures:

De.2. Measure Title: Rheumatoid Arthritis: Disease Modifying Anti-Rheumatic Drug (DMARD) Therapy (Recommened for eMeasure Trial Approval)

Co.1.1. Measure Steward: AMERICAN COLLEGE OF RHEUMATOLOGY

De.3. Brief Description of Measure: Percentage of patients 18 years and older with a diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis who are newly prescribed disease modifying anti-rheumatic drug (DMARD) therapy within 12 months.

1b.1. Developer Rationale: The American College of Rheumatology (ACR) guidelines recommend the use of disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs) in every patient with active RA at the earliest stage of disease, ideally within 3 months of disease onset. These guidelines are based on results from numerous clinical trials demonstrating that DMARDs slow the progression of RA by decreasing inflammation and reducing articular erosions. In addition, both clinical trials and observational studies demonstrate that DMARDs improve functional status and health-related quality of life. Both underuse and disparities in DMARD use have been well-documented in numerous studies.

Sources:

Singh JA, Furst DE, Bharat A, Curtis JR. 2012 update of the 2008 American College of Rheumatology recommendations for the use of disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs and biologic agents in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis. *Arthritis Care Res (Hoboken)*. 2012 May;64(5):625-39.

Schmajuk G, Trivedi AN, Solomon DH, Yelin E, Trupin L, Chakravarty EF, Yazdany J. Receipt of disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs among patients with rheumatoid arthritis in Medicare managed care plans. *JAMA*. 2011 Feb 2;305(5):480-6.

Schmajuk G, Solomon DH, Yazdany J. Patterns of disease-modifying antirheumatic drug use in rheumatoid arthritis patients after 2002: a systematic review. *Arthritis Care Res (Hoboken)*. 2013 Dec;65(12):1927-35.

S.4. Numerator Statement: Patient received a DMARD

S.6. Denominator Statement: Patient age 18 years and older with a diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis seen for two or more face-to-face encounters for RA with the same clinician during the measurement period

S.8. Denominator Exclusions: Patients with a diagnosis of HIV; patients who are pregnant; or patients with inactive Rheumatoid Arthritis.

De.1. Measure Type: Process

S.17. Data Source: Other

S.20. Level of Analysis: Clinician : Individual

IF Endorsement Maintenance – Original Endorsement Date: Nov 10, 2014 **Most Recent Endorsement Date:** Nov 10, 2014

IF this measure is included in a composite, NQF Composite#/title:

IF this measure is paired/grouped, NQF#/title:

De.4. IF PAIRED/GROUPED, what is the reason this measure must be reported with other measures to appropriately interpret

results? [N/A](#)

1. Evidence, Performance Gap, Priority – Importance to Measure and Report

Extent to which the specific measure focus is evidence-based, important to making significant gains in healthcare quality, and improving health outcomes for a specific high-priority (high-impact) aspect of healthcare where there is variation in or overall less-than-optimal performance. ***Measures must be judged to meet all sub criteria to pass this criterion and be evaluated against the remaining criteria.***

1a. Evidence to Support the Measure Focus – See attached Evidence Submission Form

[DMARD_Evidence_Form_Final.docx](#)

1a.1 For Maintenance of Endorsement: Is there new evidence about the measure since the last update/submission?

Please update any changes in the evidence attachment in red. Do not remove any existing information. If there have been any changes to evidence, the Committee will consider the new evidence. If there is no new evidence, no updating of the evidence information is needed.

1b. Performance Gap

Demonstration of quality problems and opportunity for improvement, i.e., data demonstrating:

- considerable variation, or overall less-than-optimal performance, in the quality of care across providers; and/or
- Disparities in care across population groups.

1b.1. Briefly explain the rationale for this measure (e.g., how the measure will improve the quality of care, the benefits or improvements in quality envisioned by use of this measure)

IF a PRO-PM (e.g. HRQoL/functional status, symptom/burden, experience with care, health-related behaviors), provide evidence that the target population values the measured PRO and finds it meaningful. (Describe how and from whom their input was obtained.)

IF a COMPOSITE (e.g., combination of component measure scores, all-or-none, any-or-none), SKIP this question and provide rationale for composite in question 1c.3 on the composite tab.

The American College of Rheumatology (ACR) guidelines recommend the use of disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs) in every patient with active RA at the earliest stage of disease, ideally within 3 months of disease onset. These guidelines are based on results from numerous clinical trials demonstrating that DMARDs slow the progression of RA by decreasing inflammation and reducing articular erosions. In addition, both clinical trials and observational studies demonstrate that DMARDs improve functional status and health-related quality of life. Both underuse and disparities in DMARD use have been well-documented in numerous studies.

Sources:

Singh JA, Furst DE, Bharat A, Curtis JR. 2012 update of the 2008 American College of Rheumatology recommendations for the use of disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs and biologic agents in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis. *Arthritis Care Res (Hoboken)*. 2012 May;64(5):625-39.

Schmajuk G, Trivedi AN, Solomon DH, Yelin E, Trupin L, Chakravarty EF, Yazdany J. Receipt of disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs among patients with rheumatoid arthritis in Medicare managed care plans. *JAMA*. 2011 Feb 2;305(5):480-6.

Schmajuk G, Solomon DH, Yazdany J. Patterns of disease-modifying antirheumatic drug use in rheumatoid arthritis patients after 2002: a systematic review. *Arthritis Care Res (Hoboken)*. 2013 Dec;65(12):1927-35.

1b.2. Provide performance scores on the measure as specified (current and over time) at the specified level of analysis. (*This is required for maintenance of endorsement. Include mean, std dev, min, max, interquartile range, scores by decile. Describe the data source including number of measured entities; number of patients; dates of data; if a sample, characteristics of the entities include.*) This information also will be used to address the sub-criterion on improvement (4b) under Usability and Use.

Number of Measured Entities: 2

Number of Patients: 162

Dates of Data: January 1, 2013 – December 31, 2013

Performance Rate Overall: 89.51%

Performance Rate Site #1: 88.89%

Performance Rate Site #2: 90.12%

1b.3. If no or limited performance data on the measure as specified is reported in 1b2, then provide a summary of data from the literature that indicates opportunity for improvement or overall less than optimal performance on the specific focus of measurement.

Data reported through the ACR's Rheumatology Clinical Registry (RCR) indicate the following performance rates:

CY2011: 92.5%

CY2012: 98.6%

Source:

Yazdany, Jinoos, Kazi, Salahuddin, Francisco, Melissa, Myslinski, Rachel. "Uptake of the American College of Rheumatology's Rheumatology Clinical Registry (RCR): Quality Measure Summary Data". Annual Scientific Meeting. American College of Rheumatology. Reed Convention Center, Washington, DC. 27 October 2013. Conference Presentation.

1b.4. Provide disparities data from the measure as specified (current and over time) by population group, e.g., by race/ethnicity, gender, age, insurance status, socioeconomic status, and/or disability. (*This is required for maintenance of endorsement. Describe the data source including number of measured entities; number of patients; dates of data; if a sample, characteristics of the entities included.*) For measures that show high levels of performance, i.e., "topped out", disparities data may demonstrate an opportunity for improvement/gap in care for certain sub-populations. This information also will be used to address the sub-criterion on improvement (4b) under Usability and Use.

Since this is a newly proposed e-measure, no disparities data from the measure as specified is yet available.

1b.5. If no or limited data on disparities from the measure as specified is reported in 1b.4, then provide a summary of data from the literature that addresses disparities in care on the specific focus of measurement. Include citations. Not necessary if performance data provided in 1b.4

Since this is a newly proposed e-measure, no disparities data from the measure as specified is yet available. However, disparities in DMARD use by race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status, age and geographic location have been reported in several well-conducted studies, some applying a similar performance measure. The largest study to date examined nationwide performance data on the HEDIS DMARD quality measure in over 90,000 individuals with RA enrolled in Medicare managed care plans. Blacks, those with low socioeconomic status, older individuals and those residing in certain geographic regions were significantly less likely to receive a DMARD for RA. Several additional studies using the Medicare Current Beneficiaries Survey, nationwide data from the Medicare fee-for-service population, and clinic-based populations have also found significant disparities in DMARD use.

Sources:

Schmajuk G, Trivedi AN, Solomon DH, Yelin E, Trupin L, Chakravarty EF, Yazdany J. Receipt of disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs among patients with rheumatoid arthritis in Medicare managed care plans. JAMA. 2011 Feb 2;305(5):480-6.

Solomon DH, Yelin E, Katz JN, Lu B, Shaykevich T, Ayanian JZ. Treatment of rheumatoid arthritis in the Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey. Arthritis Res Ther. 2013 Mar 18;15(2):R43.

Suarez-Almazor ME, Berrios-Rivera JP, Cox V, Janssen NM, Marcus DM, Sessoms S. Initiation of disease-modifying antirheumatic drug therapy in minority and disadvantaged patients with rheumatoid arthritis. J Rheumatol. 2007 Dec;34(12):2400-7.

Yazdany J, Tonner C, Schmajuk G et al. Receipt of Glucocorticoid Monotherapy Among Medicare Beneficiaries with Rheumatoid Arthritis. Arthritis Care & Research (in press, 2014).

2. Reliability and Validity—Scientific Acceptability of Measure Properties

Extent to which the measure, as specified, produces consistent (reliable) and credible (valid) results about the quality of care when implemented. **Measures must be judged to meet the sub criteria for both reliability and validity to pass this criterion and be evaluated against the remaining criteria.**

2a.1. Specifications The measure is well defined and precisely specified so it can be implemented consistently within and across

organizations and allows for comparability. eMeasures should be specified in the Health Quality Measures Format (HQMF) and the Quality Data Model (QDM).

De.5. Subject/Topic Area (check all the areas that apply):

[Musculoskeletal : Rheumatoid Arthritis](#)

De.6. Non-Condition Specific(check all the areas that apply):

De.7. Target Population Category (Check all the populations for which the measure is specified and tested if any):

S.1. Measure-specific Web Page (Provide a URL link to a web page specific for this measure that contains current detailed specifications including code lists, risk model details, and supplemental materials. Do not enter a URL linking to a home page or to general information.)

[N/A](#)

S.2a. If this is an eMeasure, HQMF specifications must be attached. Attach the zipped output from the eMeasure authoring tool (MAT) - if the MAT was not used, contact staff. (Use the specification fields in this online form for the plain-language description of the specifications)

[This is an eMeasure Attachment: DMARD_Human_Readable_Updated-635291741332795610.docx](#)

S.2b. Data Dictionary, Code Table, or Value Sets (and risk model codes and coefficients when applicable) must be attached. (Excel or csv file in the suggested format preferred - if not, contact staff)

[Attachment Attachment: DMARD_Value_Sets_Updated.xls](#)

S.3.1. For maintenance of endorsement: Are there changes to the specifications since the last updates/submission. If yes, update the specifications for S1-2 and S4-22 and explain reasons for the changes in S3.2.

S.3.2. For maintenance of endorsement, please briefly describe any important changes to the measure specifications since last measure update and explain the reasons.

[N/A](#)

S.4. Numerator Statement (Brief, narrative description of the measure focus or what is being measured about the target population, i.e., cases from the target population with the target process, condition, event, or outcome) **DO NOT** include the rationale for the measure.

IF an OUTCOME MEASURE, state the outcome being measured. Calculation of the risk-adjusted outcome should be described in the calculation algorithm (S.14).

[Patient received a DMARD](#)

S.5. Numerator Details (All information required to identify and calculate the cases from the target population with the target process, condition, event, or outcome such as definitions, time period for data collection, specific data collection items/responses, code/value sets – Note: lists of individual codes with descriptors that exceed 1 page should be provided in an Excel or csv file in required format at S.2b)

IF an OUTCOME MEASURE, describe how the observed outcome is identified/counted. Calculation of the risk-adjusted outcome should be described in the calculation algorithm (S.14).

[DMARD therapy includes:](#)

[Biologic Agents-](#)

[abatacept](#)

[adalimumab](#)

[anakinra](#)

[certolizumab](#)

[etanercept](#)

golimumab
infliximab
rituximab
tocilizumab
Non-Biologic Agents-
azathioprine
cyclophosphamide
cyclosporine
gold
hydroxychloroquine
leflunomide
methotrexate
minocycline
penicillamine
sulfasalazine

Anti-inflammatory medications, including glucocorticoids do not meet the measure.

S.6. Denominator Statement (Brief, narrative description of the target population being measured)

Patient age 18 years and older with a diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis seen for two or more face-to-face encounters for RA with the same clinician during the measurement period

S.7. Denominator Details (All information required to identify and calculate the target population/denominator such as definitions, time period for data collection, specific data collection items/responses, code/value sets – Note: lists of individual codes with descriptors that exceed 1 page should be provided in an Excel or csv file in required format at S.2b.)

IF an OUTCOME MEASURE, describe how the target population is identified. Calculation of the risk-adjusted outcome should be described in the calculation algorithm (S.14).

Patients 18 years and older with a diagnosis of Rheumatoid Arthritis seen for two or more encounters for Rheumatoid Arthritis during the measurement period.

S.8. Denominator Exclusions (Brief narrative description of exclusions from the target population)

Patients with a diagnosis of HIV; patients who are pregnant; or patients with inactive Rheumatoid Arthritis.

S.9. Denominator Exclusion Details (All information required to identify and calculate exclusions from the denominator such as definitions, time period for data collection, specific data collection items/responses, code/value sets – Note: lists of individual codes with descriptors that exceed 1 page should be provided in an Excel or csv file in required format at S.2b.)

Please see attached file DMARD_Value_Sets_Updated.xls

S.10. Stratification Information (Provide all information required to stratify the measure results, if necessary, including the stratification variables, definitions, specific data collection items/responses, code/value sets, and the risk-model covariates and coefficients for the clinically-adjusted version of the measure when appropriate – Note: lists of individual codes with descriptors that exceed 1 page should be provided in an Excel or csv file in required format with at S.2b.)

N/A

S.11. Risk Adjustment Type (Select type. Provide specifications for risk stratification in measure testing attachment)

No risk adjustment or risk stratification

If other:

S.12. Type of score:

Rate/proportion

If other:

S.13. Interpretation of Score (Classifies interpretation of score according to whether better quality is associated with a higher score, a lower score, a score falling within a defined interval, or a passing score)

Better quality = Higher score

S.14. Calculation Algorithm/Measure Logic *(Diagram or describe the calculation of the measure score as an ordered sequence of steps including identifying the target population; exclusions; cases meeting the target process, condition, event, or outcome; time period for data, aggregating data; risk adjustment; etc.)*

CASES MEETING TARGET PROCESS/TARGET POPULATION

S.15. Sampling *(If measure is based on a sample, provide instructions for obtaining the sample and guidance on minimum sample size.)*

IF a PRO-PM, identify whether (and how) proxy responses are allowed.

A random sample is obtained by assigning each patient a sequential number and then using a random number generator to select patients.

S.16. Survey/Patient-reported data *(If measure is based on a survey or instrument, provide instructions for data collection and guidance on minimum response rate.)*

IF a PRO-PM, specify calculation of response rates to be reported with performance measure results.

N/A

S.17. Data Source *(Check ONLY the sources for which the measure is SPECIFIED AND TESTED).*

If other, please describe in S.18.

Other

S.18. Data Source or Collection Instrument *(Identify the specific data source/data collection instrument (e.g. name of database, clinical registry, collection instrument, etc., and describe how data is collected.)*

IF a PRO-PM, identify the specific PROM(s); and standard methods, modes, and languages of administration.

Source: Electronic Health Records

Instrument: RA MEASURE TESTING DATA COLLECTION FORM

S.19. Data Source or Collection Instrument *(available at measure-specific Web page URL identified in S.1 OR in attached appendix at A.1)*

Available in attached appendix at A.1

S.20. Level of Analysis *(Check ONLY the levels of analysis for which the measure is SPECIFIED AND TESTED)*

Clinician : Individual

S.21. Care Setting *(Check ONLY the settings for which the measure is SPECIFIED AND TESTED)*

Outpatient Services

If other:

S.22. COMPOSITE Performance Measure - Additional Specifications *(Use this section as needed for aggregation and weighting rules, or calculation of individual performance measures if not individually endorsed.)*

N/A

2. Validity – See attached Measure Testing Submission Form

DMARD_Measure_Testing_Form_Final.docx

2.1 For maintenance of endorsement

Reliability testing: If testing of reliability of the measure score was not presented in prior submission(s), has reliability testing of the measure score been conducted? If yes, please provide results in the Testing attachment. (Do not remove prior testing information – include date of new information in red.)

2.2 For maintenance of endorsement

Has additional empirical validity testing of the measure score been conducted? If yes, please provide results in the Testing attachment. (Do not remove prior testing information – include date of new information in red.)

2.3 For maintenance of endorsement

Risk adjustment: For outcome, resource use, cost, and some process measures, risk-adjustment that includes SDS factors is no longer prohibited during the SDS Trial Period (2015-2016). Please update sections 1.8, 2a2, 2b2, 2b4, and 2b6 in the Testing attachment and S.14 and S.15 in the online submission form in accordance with the requirements for the SDS Trial Period. NOTE: These sections must be updated even if SDS factors are not included in the risk-adjustment strategy. If yes, and your testing attachment does not have the additional questions for the SDS Trial please add these questions to your testing attachment:

What were the patient-level sociodemographic (SDS) variables that were available and analyzed in the data or sample used? For example, patient-reported data (e.g., income, education, language), proxy variables when SDS data are not collected from each patient (e.g. census tract), or patient community characteristics (e.g. percent vacant housing, crime rate).

Describe the conceptual/clinical and statistical methods and criteria used to select patient factors (clinical factors or sociodemographic factors) used in the statistical risk model or for stratification by risk (e.g., potential factors identified in the literature and/or expert panel; regression analysis; statistical significance of $p < 0.10$; correlation of x or higher; patient factors should be present at the start of care)

What were the statistical results of the analyses used to select risk factors?

Describe the analyses and interpretation resulting in the decision to select SDS factors (e.g. prevalence of the factor across measured entities, empirical association with the outcome, contribution of unique variation in the outcome, assessment of between-unit effects and within-unit effects)

3. Feasibility

Extent to which the specifications including measure logic, require data that are readily available or could be captured without undue burden and can be implemented for performance measurement.

3a. Byproduct of Care Processes

For clinical measures, the required data elements are routinely generated and used during care delivery (e.g., blood pressure, lab test, diagnosis, medication order).

3a.1. Data Elements Generated as Byproduct of Care Processes.

Generated or collected by and used by healthcare personnel during the provision of care (e.g., blood pressure, lab value, diagnosis, depression score), Coded by someone other than person obtaining original information (e.g., DRG, ICD-9 codes on claims)

If other:

3b. Electronic Sources

The required data elements are available in electronic health records or other electronic sources. If the required data are not in electronic health records or existing electronic sources, a credible, near-term path to electronic collection is specified.

3b.1. To what extent are the specified data elements available electronically in defined fields (i.e., data elements that are needed to compute the performance measure score are in defined, computer-readable fields) Update this field for maintenance of endorsement.

ALL data elements are in defined fields in a combination of electronic sources

3b.2. If ALL the data elements needed to compute the performance measure score are not from electronic sources, specify a credible, near-term path to electronic capture, OR provide a rationale for using other than electronic sources. For maintenance of endorsement, if this measure is not an eMeasure (eCQM), please describe any efforts to develop an eMeasure (eCQM).

3b.3. If this is an eMeasure, provide a summary of the feasibility assessment in an attached file or make available at a measure-specific URL. Please also complete and attach the NQF Feasibility Score Card.

Attachment: [RA_Feasibility_Survey_Responses_-_Data_Element_Scores.xls](#)

3c. Data Collection Strategy

Demonstration that the data collection strategy (e.g., source, timing, frequency, sampling, patient confidentiality, costs associated with fees/licensing of proprietary measures) can be implemented (e.g., already in operational use, or testing demonstrates that it is ready to put into operational use). For eMeasures, a feasibility assessment addresses the data elements and measure logic and demonstrates the eMeasure can be implemented or feasibility concerns can be adequately addressed.

3c.1. Required for maintenance of endorsement. Describe difficulties (as a result of testing and/or operational use of the measure) regarding data collection, availability of data, missing data, timing and frequency of data collection, sampling, patient confidentiality, time and cost of data collection, other feasibility/implementation issues.

IF a PRO-PM, consider implications for both individuals providing PRO data (patients, service recipients, respondents) and those whose performance is being measured.

Testing did not uncover any additional issues with this measure.

3c.2. Describe any fees, licensing, or other requirements to use any aspect of the measure as specified (e.g., value/code set, risk model, programming code, algorithm).

N/A

4. Usability and Use

Extent to which potential audiences (e.g., consumers, purchasers, providers, policy makers) are using or could use performance results for both accountability and performance improvement to achieve the goal of high-quality, efficient healthcare for individuals or populations.

4a. Accountability and Transparency

Performance results are used in at least one accountability application within three years after initial endorsement and are publicly reported within six years after initial endorsement (or the data on performance results are available). If not in use at the time of initial endorsement, then a credible plan for implementation within the specified timeframes is provided.

4.1. Current and Planned Use

NQF-endorsed measures are expected to be used in at least one accountability application within 3 years and publicly reported within 6 years of initial endorsement in addition to performance improvement.

Specific Plan for Use	Current Use (for current use provide URL)
Public Reporting	
Payment Program	
Regulatory and Accreditation Programs	
Professional Certification or Recognition Program	
Quality Improvement (Internal to the specific organization)	

4a.1. For each CURRENT use, checked above (update for maintenance of endorsement), provide:

- Name of program and sponsor
- Purpose
- Geographic area and number and percentage of accountable entities and patients included
- Level of measurement and setting

N/A

4a.2. If not currently publicly reported OR used in at least one other accountability application (e.g., payment program, certification, licensing) what are the reasons? (e.g., Do policies or actions of the developer/steward or accountable entities restrict access to performance results or impede implementation?)

Measures analogous to the proposed e-measure are currently used in both the PQRS and HEDIS program. The newly specified measure adds electronic specifications to allow extraction of data from the electronic health record.

4a.3. If not currently publicly reported OR used in at least one other accountability application, provide a credible plan for implementation within the expected timeframes -- any accountability application within 3 years and publicly reported within 6 years of initial endorsement. (Credible plan includes the specific program, purpose, intended audience, and timeline for implementing the measure within the specified timeframes. A plan for accountability applications addresses mechanisms for data aggregation and reporting.)

The American College of Rheumatology has recently launched a national EHR-enabled RA registry and is seeking certification as a qualified clinical data registry and this measure will be incorporated into the registry. The measure is not currently publicly reported, but is likely to be publicly reported in the future as the registry data becomes more robust. The registry will provide benchmarking and performance feedback to practices using a federated EHR system.

Improvement

Progress toward achieving the goal of high-quality, efficient healthcare for individuals or populations is demonstrated. If not in use for performance improvement at the time of initial endorsement, then a credible rationale describes how the performance results could be used to further the goal of high-quality, efficient healthcare for individuals or populations.

4b. Refer to data provided in 1b but do not repeat here. Discuss any progress on improvement (trends in performance results, number and percentage of people receiving high-quality healthcare; Geographic area and number and percentage of accountable entities and patients included.)

If no improvement was demonstrated, what are the reasons? If not in use for performance improvement at the time of initial endorsement, provide a credible rationale that describes how the performance results could be used to further the goal of high-quality, efficient healthcare for individuals or populations.

N/A

4c. Unintended Consequences

The benefits of the performance measure in facilitating progress toward achieving high-quality, efficient healthcare for individuals or populations outweigh evidence of unintended negative consequences to individuals or populations (if such evidence exists).

4c.1. Please explain any unexpected findings (positive or negative) during implementation of this measure including unintended impacts on patients.

N/A

4c.2. Please explain any unexpected benefits from implementation of this measure.

4d1.1. Describe how performance results, data, and assistance with interpretation have been provided to those being measured or other users during development or implementation.

How many and which types of measured entities and/or others were included? If only a sample of measured entities were included, describe the full population and how the sample was selected.

4d1.2. Describe the process(es) involved, including when/how often results were provided, what data were provided, what educational/explanatory efforts were made, etc.

4d2.1. Summarize the feedback on measure performance and implementation from the measured entities and others described in 4d.1.

Describe how feedback was obtained.

4d2.2. Summarize the feedback obtained from those being measured.

4d2.3. Summarize the feedback obtained from other users

4d.3. Describe how the feedback described in 4d.2 has been considered when developing or revising the measure specifications or implementation, including whether the measure was modified and why or why not.

5. Comparison to Related or Competing Measures

If a measure meets the above criteria and there are endorsed or new related measures (either the same measure focus or the same target population) or competing measures (both the same measure focus and the same target population), the measures are compared to address harmonization and/or selection of the best measure.

5. Relation to Other NQF-endorsed Measures

Are there related measures (conceptually, either same measure focus or target population) or competing measures (conceptually both the same measure focus and same target population)? If yes, list the NQF # and title of all related and/or competing measures.

Yes

5.1a. List of related or competing measures (selected from NQF-endorsed measures)

5.1b. If related or competing measures are not NQF endorsed please indicate measure title and steward.

Measure Title: Rheumatoid Arthritis DMARD Therapy

Owner: NCQA

5a. Harmonization of Related Measures

The measure specifications are harmonized with related measures;

OR

The differences in specifications are justified

5a.1. If this measure conceptually addresses EITHER the same measure focus OR the same target population as NQF-endorsed measure(s):

Are the measure specifications harmonized to the extent possible?

No

5a.2. If the measure specifications are not completely harmonized, identify the differences, rationale, and impact on interpretability and data collection burden.

The current NQF-endorsed DMARD measure is specified for claims-based reporting. Our proposed measure is e-specified and intended for use in electronic reporting options. Also, the NCQA's DMARD measure does not include Rheumatoid Arthritis, Inactive as an exclusion. This exclusion has been incorporated into this submission. The ACR would be happy to work with NCQA to harmonize the measures.

5b. Competing Measures

The measure is superior to competing measures (e.g., is a more valid or efficient way to measure);

OR

Multiple measures are justified.

5b.1. If this measure conceptually addresses both the same measure focus and the same target population as NQF-endorsed measure(s):

Describe why this measure is superior to competing measures (e.g., a more valid or efficient way to measure quality); OR provide

a rationale for the additive value of endorsing an additional measure. (Provide analyses when possible.)

The current NQF-endorsed DMARD measure is specified for claims-based reporting. Our proposed measure is e-specified and intended for use in electronic reporting options. Also, the NCQA's DMARD measure does not include Rheumatoid Arthritis, Inactive as an exclusion. This exclusion has been incorporated into this submission.

Appendix

A.1 Supplemental materials may be provided in an appendix. All supplemental materials (such as data collection instrument or methodology reports) should be organized in one file with a table of contents or bookmarks. If material pertains to a specific submission form number, that should be indicated. Requested information should be provided in the submission form and required attachments. There is no guarantee that supplemental materials will be reviewed.

[Attachment](#) **Attachment:** [Appendix.xlsx](#)

Contact Information

Co.1 Measure Steward (Intellectual Property Owner): [AMERICAN COLLEGE OF RHEUMATOLOGY](#)

Co.2 Point of Contact: [RACHEL, MYSLINSKI, RMYSLINSKI@RHEUMATOLOGY.ORG](#), 404-633-3777-824

Co.3 Measure Developer if different from Measure Steward: [AMERICAN COLLEGE OF RHEUMATOLOGY](#)

Co.4 Point of Contact: [RACHEL, MYSLINSKI, RMYSLINSKI@RHEUMATOLOGY.ORG](#), 404-633-3777-

Additional Information

Ad.1 Workgroup/Expert Panel involved in measure development

Provide a list of sponsoring organizations and workgroup/panel members' names and organizations. Describe the members' role in measure development.

[Jinoos Yazdany, MD, MPH](#)

[University of California San Francisco](#)

[Mark Robbins, MD](#)

[Harvard Vanguard Medical Associates](#)

[Sonali Parekh Desai, MD](#)

[Diane V. Lacaille, MD, FRCPC, MHSc](#)

[Arthritis Research Center Canada](#)

[Gabby Schmajuk, MD](#)

[University of California San Francisco](#)

[Eric Newman, MD](#)

[Geisinger Medical Center](#)

[Jasvinder Singh, MD](#)

[University of Alabama Birmingham](#)

[Tuhina Neogi, MD](#)

[Boston University](#)

Measure Developer/Steward Updates and Ongoing Maintenance

Ad.2 Year the measure was first released:

Ad.3 Month and Year of most recent revision:

Ad.4 What is your frequency for review/update of this measure?

Ad.5 When is the next scheduled review/update for this measure?

Ad.6 Copyright statement: [Copyright \(c\) 2013, American College of Rheumatology](#)

Ad.7 Disclaimers: All materials are subject to copyrights owned by the College. The College hereby provides limited permission for the user to reproduce, retransmit or reprint for such user's own personal use (and for such personal use only) part or all of any document as long as the copyright notice and permission notice contained in such document or portion thereof is included in such reproduction, retransmission or reprinting. All other reproduction, retransmission, or reprinting of all or part of any document is expressly prohibited, unless the College has expressly granted its prior written consent to so reproduce, retransmit, or reprint the material. All other rights reserved.

CPT(R) contained in the Measure specifications is copyright 2004-2013 American Medical Association.

LOINC(R) copyright 2004-2012 Regenstrief Institute, Inc.

This material contains SNOMED Clinical Terms(R) (SNOMED CT[R]) copyright 2004-2012 International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation.

ICD-10 copyright 2012 World Health Organization. All Rights Reserved.

Due to technical limitations, registered trademarks are indicated by (R) or [R] and unregistered trademarks are indicated by (TM) or [TM].

Ad.8 Additional Information/Comments: