

# Form Information

**Form Name:** Quality Measure Submission Form

**Form Version:** 9.0

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# Introduction

Thank you for your interest in submitting a measure to NQF for possible endorsement.

**What criteria are used to evaluate measures?** Measures are evaluated on standardized criteria: importance to measure and report, scientific acceptability of measure properties, feasibility, usability and use, and related and competing measures. For your measure to be evaluated against these measure evaluation criteria, you must complete the measure submission form.

**Why do I have to complete a form?** Due to the volume and/or complexity of proposed measures, NQF provides measure information to committee reviewers in a standardized format to facilitate their evaluation of whether the measure meets NQF's measure evaluation criteria. This form allows the measure steward to present information demonstrating that the proposed measure meets NQF's criteria.

**What is on the form?** The information requested in this form is directly related to NQF's measure evaluation criteria.

**Can't I just submit our files for consideration?** No. Measures must be submitted through the online form to be considered. Requested information should be entered directly into this form and as well as any necessary or required attachments.

**Can I submit additional details and materials?** Additional materials will be considered only as supplemental. Do NOT rely on material provided in an appendix to provide measure specifications or to demonstrate meeting the criteria. The core information needed to evaluate the measure should be provided in the appropriate submission form fields and required attachments. Please contact the designated project staff regarding questions about submitting supplemental materials.

**What do I do first?** If you have started a new submission by answering five qualifying questions, you may proceed to the “Previous Submission Information" tab to continue with your submission. The “Conditions” tab will list the conditions that must be met before your proposed measures may be considered and evaluated for suitability as NQF‐endorsed voluntary consensus standards. You are asked to acknowledge reading and accepting the conditions.

**Can I come back later to complete a submission once I have started?** Yes. You can return to your submission at your convenience to complete the form until the designated deadline. To save and return, simply click on the save‐draft option anytime during the submission process. When you want to continue, please login to the National Quality Forum website, go to your Dashboard, and click on your submission.

**Can I make changes to a form once I have submitted it?** No. Once you submit your measure, you will NOT be able to return to this submission form to make further revisions. You will need to contact project staff.

**What if I need additional help?** Please contact the project staff identified in the call for measures if you have questions regarding the information requested or submitting supplemental materials.

**NOTE: All measure submissions should be 508-compliant. Refer to the** [**Checklist for Developer 508 Guidelines**](https://www.qualityforum.org/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=96908) **(PDF) to ensure all guidelines apply to all parts of your submission, including all fields and attachments used within the MIMS measure submission form.**

Please email us at [measuremaintenance@qualityforum.org](mailto:measuremaintenance@qualityforum.org) if you experience technical difficulties using the online submission form.

Thank you for your interest in submitting measures to NQF.

# Previous Submission Information (1 - 4)

**1) Select whether this measure was previously submitted to NQF and given an NQF#.**

Previously submitted to NQF Previously submitted to NQF

New measure, never submitted. New measure, never submitted.

**2) Provide the NQF number of the previously submitted measure.**

**3) If the measure has an eCQM version, provide the NQF# of the previously submitted measure.**

**4) If this eCQM has a registry version, provide the NQF# of the previously submitted measure.**

# NQF Conditions (1 - 2)

**Several conditions must be met before proposed measures may be considered and evaluated for suitability as voluntary consensus standards. If any of the conditions are not met, the measure will not be accepted for consideration.**

A. [**A Measure Steward Agreement**](http://www.qualityforum.org/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=70668) is signed or the steward is a government organization. (All non-government organizations must sign a [**Measure Steward Agreement**](https://www.qualityforum.org/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=70668)**.**)

B. The measure owner/steward verifies there is an identified responsible entity and a 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.

C. The intended use of the measure includes both accountability applications (including public reporting) and performance improvement to achieve high-quality, efficient healthcare.

D. The measure is fully specified and tested for reliability and validity.

E. The measure developer/steward attests that harmonization with related measures and issues with competing measures have been considered and addressed, as appropriate.

F. The requested measure submission information is complete and responsive to the questions so that all the information needed to evaluate all criteria is provided.

**1) Check if either of the following apply (as defined in the** [**Measure Steward Agreement**](http://www.qualityforum.org/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=70668)**).**

Proprietary measure or components (e.g., risk model, codes) Proprietary measure or components (e.g., risk model, codes)

Proprietary measure or components with fees Proprietary measure or components with fees

None of the above None of the above

**2) Check the box below to agree to the conditions listed above.**

I have read and accept the conditions as specified above I have read and accept the conditions as specified above

# Specifications: Maintenance Update (spma.01 - spma.02)

**spma.01) Indicate whether there are changes to the specifications since the last updates/submission. If yes, update the specifications in the Measure Specifications section of the Measure Submission Form, and explain your reasoning for the changes below.**

No No

Yes Yes

**spma.02) Briefly describe any important changes to the measure specifications since the last measure update and provide a rationale.**

**For annual updates, please explain how the change in specifications affects the measure results. If a material change in specification is identified, data from re-testing of the measure with the new specifications is required for early maintenance review.**

*For example, specifications may have been updated based on suggestions from a previous NQF CDP review.*

# Measure Specifications (sp.01 - sp.32)

**sp.01) Provide the measure title.**

*Measure titles should be concise yet convey who and what is being measured (see* [*What Good Looks Like*](http://www.qualityforum.org/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=73367)*).*

**sp.02) Provide a brief description of the measure.**

*Including type of score, measure focus, target population, timeframe, (e.g., Percentage of adult patients aged 18-75 years receiving one or more HbA1c tests per year).*

**sp.03) Provide a rationale for why this measure must be reported with other measures to appropriately interpret results.**

**sp.04) Check all the clinical condition/topic areas that apply to your measure, below.**

*Please refrain from selecting the following answer option(s). We are in the process of phasing out these answer options and request that you instead select one of the other answer options as they apply to your measure.*

*Please do not select:*

* *Surgery: General*

Behavioral Health Behavioral Health

Behavioral Health: Alcohol, Substance Use/Abuse Behavioral Health: Alcohol, Substance Use/Abuse

Behavioral Health: Anxiety Behavioral Health: Anxiety

Behavioral Health: Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) Behavioral Health: Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)

Behavioral Health: Bipolar Disorder Behavioral Health: Bipolar Disorder

Behavioral Health: Depression Behavioral Health: Depression

Behavioral Health: Domestic Violence Behavioral Health: Domestic Violence

Behavioral Health: Other Serious Mental Illness Behavioral Health: Other Serious Mental Illness

Behavioral Health: Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Behavioral Health: Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

Behavioral Health: Schizophrenia Behavioral Health: Schizophrenia

Behavioral Health: Suicide Behavioral Health: Suicide

Cancer Cancer

Cancer: Bladder Cancer: Bladder

Cancer: Breast Cancer: Breast

Cancer: Colorectal Cancer: Colorectal

Cancer: Gynecologic Cancer: Gynecologic

Cancer: Hematologic Cancer: Hematologic

Cancer: Liver Cancer: Liver

Cancer: Lung, Esophageal Cancer: Lung, Esophageal

Cancer: Prostate Cancer: Prostate

Cancer: Renal Cancer: Renal

Cancer: Skin Cancer: Skin

Cancer: Thyroid Cancer: Thyroid

Cardiovascular Cardiovascular

Cardiovascular: Arrythmia Cardiovascular: Arrythmia

Cardiovascular: Congestive Heart Failure Cardiovascular: Congestive Heart Failure

Cardiovascular: Coronary Artery Disease Cardiovascular: Coronary Artery Disease

Cardiovascular: Coronary Artery Disease (AMI) Cardiovascular: Coronary Artery Disease (AMI)

Cardiovascular: Coronary Artery Disease (PCI) Cardiovascular: Coronary Artery Disease (PCI)

Cardiovascular: Hyperlipidemia Cardiovascular: Hyperlipidemia

Cardiovascular: Hypertension Cardiovascular: Hypertension

Cardiovascular: Secondary Prevention Cardiovascular: Secondary Prevention

Critical Care Critical Care

Critical Care: Assisted Ventilation Critical Care: Assisted Ventilation

Critical Care: Intensive Monitoring Critical Care: Intensive Monitoring

Dental Dental

Dental: Caries Dental: Caries

Dental: Tooth Loss Dental: Tooth Loss

Ears, Nose, Throat (ENT) Ears, Nose, Throat (ENT)

Ears, Nose, Throat (ENT): Ear Infection Ears, Nose, Throat (ENT): Ear Infection

Ears, Nose, Throat (ENT): Hearing Ears, Nose, Throat (ENT): Hearing

Ears, Nose, Throat (ENT): Pharyngitis Ears, Nose, Throat (ENT): Pharyngitis

Ears, Nose, Throat (ENT): Tonsilitis Ears, Nose, Throat (ENT): Tonsilitis

Endocrine Endocrine

Endocrine: Calcium and Metabolic Bone Disorders Endocrine: Calcium and Metabolic Bone Disorders

Endocrine: Diabetes Endocrine: Diabetes

Endocrine: Female and Male Endocrine Disorders Endocrine: Female and Male Endocrine Disorders

Endocrine: Hypothalamic-Pituitary Disorders Endocrine: Hypothalamic-Pituitary Disorders

Endocrine: Thyroid Disorders Endocrine: Thyroid Disorders

Eye Care Eye Care

Eye Care: Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) Eye Care: Age-related macular degeneration (AMD)

Eye Care: Cataracts Eye Care: Cataracts

Eye Care: Diabetic retinopathy Eye Care: Diabetic retinopathy

Eye Care: Glaucoma Eye Care: Glaucoma

Gastrointestinal (GI) Gastrointestinal (GI)

Gastrointestinal (GI): Constipation Gastrointestinal (GI): Constipation

Gastrointestinal (GI): Gall Bladder Disease Gastrointestinal (GI): Gall Bladder Disease

Gastrointestinal (GI): Gastroenteritis Gastrointestinal (GI): Gastroenteritis

Gastrointestinal (GI): Gastro-Esophageal Reflux Disease (GERD) Gastrointestinal (GI): Gastro-Esophageal Reflux Disease (GERD)

Gastrointestinal (GI): Hemorrhoids Gastrointestinal (GI): Hemorrhoids

Gastrointestinal (GI): Hernia Gastrointestinal (GI): Hernia

Gastrointestinal (GI): Inflammatory Bowel Disease Gastrointestinal (GI): Inflammatory Bowel Disease

Gastrointestinal (GI): Irritable Bowel Syndrome Gastrointestinal (GI): Irritable Bowel Syndrome

Gastrointestinal (GI): Peptic Ulcer Gastrointestinal (GI): Peptic Ulcer

Genitourinary (GU) Genitourinary (GU)

Genitourinary (GU): Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia Genitourinary (GU): Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia

Genitourinary (GU): Erectile Dysfunction/Premature Ejaculation Genitourinary (GU): Erectile Dysfunction/Premature Ejaculation

Genitourinary (GU): Incontinence/pelvic floor disorders Genitourinary (GU): Incontinence/pelvic floor disorders

Genitourinary (GU): Prostatitis Genitourinary (GU): Prostatitis

Genitourinary (GU): Urinary Tract Injection (UTI) Genitourinary (GU): Urinary Tract Injection (UTI)

Gynecology (GYN) Gynecology (GYN)

Gynecology (GYN): Abnormal bleeding Gynecology (GYN): Abnormal bleeding

Gynecology (GYN): Endometriosis Gynecology (GYN): Endometriosis

Gynecology (GYN): Infections Gynecology (GYN): Infections

Gynecology (GYN): Menopause Gynecology (GYN): Menopause

Gynecology (GYN): Pelvic Pain Gynecology (GYN): Pelvic Pain

Gynecology (GYN): Uterine fibroids Gynecology (GYN): Uterine fibroids

Infectious Diseases (ID) Infectious Diseases (ID)

Infectious Diseases (ID): HIV/AIDS Infectious Diseases (ID): HIV/AIDS

Infectious Diseases (ID): Influenza Infectious Diseases (ID): Influenza

Infectious Diseases (ID): Lyme Disease Infectious Diseases (ID): Lyme Disease

Infectious Diseases (ID): Meningococcal Disease Infectious Diseases (ID): Meningococcal Disease

Infectious Diseases (ID): Pneumonia and respiratory infections Infectious Diseases (ID): Pneumonia and respiratory infections

Infectious Diseases (ID): Sepsis Infectious Diseases (ID): Sepsis

Infectious Diseases (ID): Sexually Transmitted Infectious Diseases (ID): Sexually Transmitted

Infectious Diseases (ID): Tuberculosis Infectious Diseases (ID): Tuberculosis

Liver Liver

Liver: Viral Hepatitis Liver: Viral Hepatitis

Musculoskeletal Musculoskeletal

Musculoskeletal: Falls and Traumatic Injury Musculoskeletal: Falls and Traumatic Injury

Musculoskeletal: Gout Musculoskeletal: Gout

Musculoskeletal: Joint Surgery Musculoskeletal: Joint Surgery

Musculoskeletal: Low Back Pain Musculoskeletal: Low Back Pain

Musculoskeletal: Osteoarthritis Musculoskeletal: Osteoarthritis

Musculoskeletal: Osteoporosis Musculoskeletal: Osteoporosis

Musculoskeletal: Rheumatoid Arthritis Musculoskeletal: Rheumatoid Arthritis

Neurology Neurology

Neurology: Alzheimer's Disease Neurology: Alzheimer's Disease

Neurology: Autism Neurology: Autism

Neurology: Brain Injury Neurology: Brain Injury

Neurology: Epilepsy Neurology: Epilepsy

Neurology: Migraine Neurology: Migraine

Neurology: Parkinson's Disease Neurology: Parkinson's Disease

Neurology: Spinal Cord Injury Neurology: Spinal Cord Injury

Neurology: Stroke/Transient Ischemic Attack (TIA) Neurology: Stroke/Transient Ischemic Attack (TIA)

Other (specify) Other (specify)

Palliative Care and End-of-Life Care Palliative Care and End-of-Life Care

Palliative Care and End-of-Life Care: Advanced Directives Palliative Care and End-of-Life Care: Advanced Directives

Palliative Care and End-of-Life Care: Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) Palliative Care and End-of-Life Care: Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)

Palliative Care and End-of-Life Care: Hospice Management Palliative Care and End-of-Life Care: Hospice Management

Palliative Care and End-of-Life Care: Inappropriate use of acute care services Palliative Care and End-of-Life Care: Inappropriate use of acute care services

Palliative Care and End-of-Life Care: Pain Management Palliative Care and End-of-Life Care: Pain Management

Perinatal Health Perinatal Health

Perinatal Health: Labor and Delivery Perinatal Health: Labor and Delivery

Perinatal Health: Newborn Care Perinatal Health: Newborn Care

Perinatal Health: Post-Partum Care Perinatal Health: Post-Partum Care

Perinatal Health: Preconception Care Perinatal Health: Preconception Care

Perinatal Health: Prenatal Care Perinatal Health: Prenatal Care

Renal Renal

Renal: Acute Kidney Injury Renal: Acute Kidney Injury

Renal: Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) Renal: Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD)

Renal: End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Renal: End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD)

Renal: Infections Renal: Infections

Reproductive Health Reproductive Health

Reproductive Health: Family planning and contraception Reproductive Health: Family planning and contraception

Reproductive Health: Infertility Reproductive Health: Infertility

Reproductive Health: Male reproductive health Reproductive Health: Male reproductive health

Respiratory Respiratory

Respiratory: Acute Bronchitis Respiratory: Acute Bronchitis

Respiratory: Allergy Respiratory: Allergy

Respiratory: Asthma Respiratory: Asthma

Respiratory: Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) Respiratory: Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)

Respiratory: Dyspnea Respiratory: Dyspnea

Respiratory: Pneumonia Respiratory: Pneumonia

Respiratory: Sleep Apnea Respiratory: Sleep Apnea

Surgery Surgery

Surgery: Cardiac Surgery Surgery: Cardiac Surgery

Surgery: Colorectal Surgery: Colorectal

Surgery: General Surgery Surgery: General Surgery

Surgery: Neurosurgery / Spinal Surgery: Neurosurgery / Spinal

Surgery: Orthopedic Surgery: Orthopedic

Surgery: Orthopedic Hip/Pelvic Fractures Surgery: Orthopedic Hip/Pelvic Fractures

Surgery: Pediatric Surgery: Pediatric

Surgery: Perioperative and Anesthesia Surgery: Perioperative and Anesthesia

Surgery: Plastic Surgery: Plastic

Surgery: Thoracic Surgery Surgery: Thoracic Surgery

Surgery: Trauma Surgery: Trauma

Surgery: Vascular Surgery Surgery: Vascular Surgery

**sp.05) Check all the non-condition specific measure domain areas that apply to your measure, below.**

Access to Care Access to Care

Care Coordination Care Coordination

Care Coordination: Readmissions Care Coordination: Readmissions

Care Coordination: Transitions of Care Care Coordination: Transitions of Care

Disparities Sensitive Disparities Sensitive

Health and Functional Status Health and Functional Status

Health and Functional Status: Change Health and Functional Status: Change

Health and Functional Status: Nutrition Health and Functional Status: Nutrition

Health and Functional Status: Obesity Health and Functional Status: Obesity

Health and Functional Status: Physical Activity Health and Functional Status: Physical Activity

Health and Functional Status: Quality of Life Health and Functional Status: Quality of Life

Health and Functional Status: Total Health Health and Functional Status: Total Health

Immunization Immunization

Other (specify) Other (specify)

Person-and Family-Centered Care: Person-and Family-Centered Care Person-and Family-Centered Care: Person-and Family-Centered Care

Person-and Family-Centered Care: Workforce Person-and Family-Centered Care: Workforce

Primary Prevention Primary Prevention

Primary Prevention: Nutrition Primary Prevention: Nutrition

Primary Prevention: Tobacco Use Primary Prevention: Tobacco Use

Safety Safety

Safety: Complications Safety: Complications

Safety: Healthcare Associated Infections Safety: Healthcare Associated Infections

Safety: Medication Safety: Medication

Safety: Overuse Safety: Overuse

Screening Screening

**sp.06) Select one or more target population categories.**

*Select only those target populations which can be stratified in the reporting of the measure's result.*

*Please refrain from selecting the following answer option(s). We are in the process of phasing out these answer options and request that you instead select one of the other answer options as they apply to your measure.*

*Please do not select:*

* *Populations at Risk: Populations at Risk*

Adults (Age >= 18) Adults (Age >= 18)

Children (Age < 18) Children (Age < 18)

Elderly (Age >= 65) Elderly (Age >= 65)

Populations at Risk: Dual eligible beneficiaries of Medicare and Medicaid Populations at Risk: Dual eligible beneficiaries of Medicare and Medicaid

Populations at Risk: Individuals with multiple chronic conditions Populations at Risk: Individuals with multiple chronic conditions

Populations at Risk: Populations at Risk Populations at Risk: Populations at Risk

Populations at Risk: Veterans Populations at Risk: Veterans

Women Women

**sp.07) Select the levels of analysis that apply to your measure.**

*Check ONLY the levels of analysis for which the measure is SPECIFIED and TESTED.*

*Please refrain from selecting the following answer option(s). We are in the process of phasing out these answer options and request that you instead select one of the other answer options as they apply to your measure.*

*Please do not select:*

* *Clinician: Clinician*
* *Population: Population*

Accountable Care Organization Accountable Care Organization

Clinician: Clinician Clinician: Clinician

Clinician: Group/Practice Clinician: Group/Practice

Clinician: Individual Clinician: Individual

Facility Facility

Health Plan Health Plan

Integrated Delivery System Integrated Delivery System

Other Other

Population: Community, County or City Population: Community, County or City

Population: Population Population: Population

Population: Regional and State Population: Regional and State

**sp.08) Indicate the care settings that apply to your measure.**

*Check ONLY the settings for which the measure is SPECIFIED and TESTED.*Ambulatory Care Ambulatory Care

Behavioral Health Behavioral Health

Home Care Home Care

Inpatient/Hospital Inpatient/Hospital

Other Other

Outpatient Services Outpatient Services

Post-Acute Care Post-Acute Care

**sp.09) 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. If no URL is available, indicate “none available".*

**sp.10) Indicate whether Health Quality Measure Format (HQMF) specifications are attached.**

*Attach the zipped output from the eCQM 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).*HQMF specifications are attached. HQMF specifications are attached.

HQMF specifications are NOT attached (Please explain). HQMF specifications are NOT attached (Please explain).

**sp.11) Attach the simulated testing attachment.**

*All eCQMs require a simulated testing attachment to confirm that the HTML output from Bonnie testing (or testing of some other simulated data set) includes 100% coverage of measured patient population testing, with pass/fail test cases for each sub-population. This can be submitted in the form of a screenshot.*Testing is attached Testing is attached

Testing is NOT attached (Please Explain) Testing is NOT attached (Please Explain)

**sp.12) Attach the data dictionary, code table, or value sets (and risk model codes and coefficients when applicable). Excel formats (.xlsx or .csv) are preferred.**

*Attach an excel or csv file; if this poses an issue,* [*contact staff*](mailto:measuremaintenance@qualityforum.org)*. Provide descriptors for any codes. Use one file with multiple worksheets, if needed.*Available in attached Excel or csv file Available in attached Excel or csv file

No data dictionary/code table – all information provided in the submission form No data dictionary/code table – all information provided in the submission form

For the question below: state the outcome being measured. Calculation of the risk-adjusted outcome should be described in sp.22.

**sp.13) State the numerator.**

*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.*

For the question below: describe how the observed outcome is identified/counted. Calculation of the risk-adjusted outcome should be described in sp.22.

**sp.14) Provide details needed to calculate the numerator.**

*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 sp.11.*

For the question below: state the target population for the outcome. Calculation of the risk-adjusted outcome should be described in sp.22.

**sp.15) State the denominator.**

*Brief, narrative description of the target population being measured.*

For the question below: describe how the target population is identified. Calculation of the risk-adjusted outcome should be described in sp.22.

**sp.16) Provide details needed to calculate the denominator.**

*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 sp.11.*

**sp.17) Describe the denominator exclusions.**

*Brief narrative description of exclusions from the target population.*

**sp.18) Provide details needed to calculate the denominator exclusions.**

*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 sp.11.*

**sp.19) Provide all information required to stratify the measure results, if necessary.**

*Include 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 in the Data Dictionary field.*

**sp.20) Is this measure adjusted for socioeconomic status (SES)?**

Yes Yes

No No

**sp.21) Select the risk adjustment type.**

*Select type. Provide specifications for risk stratification and/or risk models in the Scientific Acceptability section.*No risk adjustment or risk stratification No risk adjustment or risk stratification

Statistical risk model Statistical risk model

Stratification by risk category/subgroup (specify number of risk factors) Stratification by risk category/subgroup (specify number of risk factors)

Other approach to address risk factors (specify) Other approach to address risk factors (specify)

**sp.22) Select the most relevant type of score.**

*Attachment: If available, please provide a sample report.*Categorical, e.g., yes/no Categorical, e.g., yes/no

Continuous variable, e.g. average Continuous variable, e.g. average

Count Count

Frequency Distribution Frequency Distribution

Non-weighted score/composite/scale Non-weighted score/composite/scale

Other (specify) Other (specify)

Rate/proportion Rate/proportion

Ratio Ratio

Weighted score/composite scale Weighted score/composite scale

**sp.23) Select the appropriate interpretation of the measure score.**

*Classifies interpretation of score according to whether better quality or resource use is associated with a higher score, a lower score, a score falling within a defined interval, or a passing score*Better quality = Higher score Better quality = Higher score

Better quality = Lower score Better quality = Lower score

Better quality = Score within a defined interval Better quality = Score within a defined interval

Passing score defines better quality Passing score defines better quality

**sp.24) Diagram or describe the calculation of the measure score as an ordered sequence of steps.**

*Identify the target population; exclusions; cases meeting the target process, condition, event, or outcome; time period of data, aggregating data; risk adjustment; etc.*

**sp.25) Attach a copy of the instrument (e.g. survey, tool, questionnaire, scale) used as a data source for your measure, if available.**

Copy of instrument is attached. Copy of instrument is attached.

Copy of instrument is NOT attached (please explain). Copy of instrument is NOT attached (please explain).

**sp.26) Indicate the responder for your instrument.**

Patient Patient

Family or other caregiver Family or other caregiver

Clinician Clinician

Other (specify) Other (specify)

**sp.27) If measure testing is based on a sample, provide instructions for obtaining the sample and guidance on minimum sample size.**

*Examples of samples used for testing:*

*• Testing may be conducted on a sample of the accountable entities (e.g., hospital, physician). The analytic unit specified for the particular measure (e.g., physician, hospital, home health agency) determines the sampling strategy for scientific acceptability testing.*

*• The sample should represent the variety of entities whose performance will be measured. The* [*2011 Measure Testing Task Force*](https://www.qualityforum.org/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=70943) *recognized that the samples used for reliability and validity testing often have limited generalizability because measured entities volunteer to participate. Ideally, however, all types of entities whose performance will be measured should be included in reliability and validity testing.*

*• The sample should include adequate numbers of units of measurement and adequate numbers of patients to answer the specific reliability or validity question with the chosen statistical method.*

*• When possible, units of measurement and patients within units should be randomly selected.*

**sp.28) Identify whether and how proxy responses are allowed.**

**sp.29) Survey/Patient-reported data.**

*Provide instructions for data collection and guidance on minimum response rate. Specify calculation of response rates to be reported with performance measure results.*

**sp.30) Select only the data sources for which the measure is specified.**

Assessment Data Assessment Data

Claims Claims

Electronic Health Data Electronic Health Data

Electronic Health Records Electronic Health Records

Instrument-Based Data Instrument-Based Data

Management Data Management Data

Other (specify) Other (specify)

Paper Medical Records Paper Medical Records

Registry Data Registry Data

**sp.31) Identify the specific data source or data collection instrument.**

*For example, provide the name of the database, clinical registry, collection instrument, etc., and describe how data are collected.*

**sp.32) Provide the data collection instrument.**

Available at measure-specific web page URL identified in sp.09 Available at measure-specific web page URL identified in sp.09

Available in attached appendix in Question 1 of the Additional Section Available in attached appendix in Question 1 of the Additional Section

No data collection instrument provided No data collection instrument provided

# Importance to Measure and Report: Maintenance of Endorsement (1ma.01)

**1ma.01) Indicate whether there is new evidence about the measure since the most recent maintenance evaluation. If yes, please briefly summarize the new evidence, and ensure you have updated entries in the Evidence section as needed.**

Yes Yes

No No

# Importance to Measure and Report: Evidence (Outcomes) (1a.01 - 1a.03)

Please separate added or updated information from the most recent measure evaluation within each question response in the Importance to Measure and Report: Evidence section. For example:

**Current Submission:**

Updated evidence information here.

**Previous (Year) Submission:**

Evidence from the previous submission here.

**1a.01) Provide a logic model.**

*Briefly describe the steps between the healthcare structures and processes (e.g., interventions, or services) and the patient’s health outcome(s). The relationships in the diagram should be easily understood by general, non-technical audiences. Indicate the structure, process or outcome being measured.*

**1a.02) Provide evidence that the target population values the measured outcome, process, or structure and finds it meaningful.**

*Describe how and from whom input was obtained.*

**1a.03) Provide empirical data demonstrating the relationship between the outcome (or PRO) and at least one healthcare structure, process, intervention, or service.**

# Importance to Measure and Report: Evidence (Process) (1a.03 - 1a.16)

Please separate added or updated information from the most recent measure evaluation within each question response in the Importance to Measure and Report: Evidence section. For example:

**Current Submission:**

Updated evidence information here.

**Previous (Year) Submission:**

Evidence from the previous submission here.

**1a.01) Provide a logic model.**

*Briefly describe the steps between the healthcare structures and processes (e.g., interventions, or services) and the patient’s health outcome(s). The relationships in the diagram should be easily understood by general, non-technical audiences. Indicate the structure, process or outcome being measured.*

**1a.02) Select the type of source for the systematic review of the body of evidence that supports the performance measure.**

*A systematic review is a scientific investigation that focuses on a specific question and uses explicit, prespecified scientific methods to identify, select, assess, and summarize the findings of similar but separate studies. It may include a quantitative synthesis (meta-analysis), depending on the available data.*Clinical Practice Guideline recommendation (with evidence review) Clinical Practice Guideline recommendation (with evidence review)

US Preventive Services Task Force Recommendation US Preventive Services Task Force Recommendation

Other systematic review and grading of the body of evidence (e.g., Cochrane Collaboration, AHRQ Evidence Practice Center)  Other systematic review and grading of the body of evidence (e.g., Cochrane Collaboration, AHRQ Evidence Practice Center)

Other (specify) Other (specify)

If the evidence is not based on a systematic review, skip to the end of the section and do not complete the repeatable question group below. If you wish to include more than one systematic review, add additional tables by clicking “Add” after the final question in the group.

**Evidence - Systematic Reviews Table (Repeatable)**

**1a.03) Provide the title, author, date, citation (including page number) and URL for the systematic review.**

**1a.04) Quote the guideline or recommendation verbatim about the process, structure or intermediate outcome being measured. If not a guideline, summarize the conclusions from the systematic review.**

**1a.05) Provide the grade assigned to the evidence associated with the recommendation, and include the definition of the grade.**

**1a.06) Provide all other grades and definitions from the evidence grading system.**

**1a.07) Provide the grade assigned to the recommendation, with definition of the grade.**

**1a.08) Provide all other grades and definitions from the recommendation grading system.**

**1a.09) Detail the quantity (how many studies) and quality (the type of studies) of the evidence.**

**1a.10) Provide the estimates of benefit, and consistency across studies.**

**1a.11) Indicate what, if any, harms were identified in the study.**

**1a.12) Identify any new studies conducted since the systematic review, and indicate whether the new studies change the conclusions from the systematic review.**

**Evidence**

**1a.13) If source of evidence is NOT from a clinical practice guideline, USPSTF, or systematic review, describe the evidence on which you are basing the performance measure.**

**1a.14) Briefly synthesize the evidence that supports the measure.**

**1a.15) Detail the process used to identify the evidence.**

**1a.16) Provide the citation(s) for the evidence.**

# Importance to Measure and Report: Gap in Care/Disparities (1b.01 - 1b.05)

**1b.01) Briefly explain the rationale for this measure.**

*Explain how the measure will improve the quality of care, and list the benefits or improvements in quality envisioned by use of this measure.*

**1b.02) Provide performance scores on the measure as specified (current and over time) at the specified level of analysis.**

*Include mean, std dev, min, max, interquartile range, and 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.*

**1b.03) If no or limited performance data on the measure as specified is reported above, 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. Include citations.**

**1b.04) 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.**

*Describe the data source including number of measured entities; number of patients; dates of data; if a sample, characteristics of the entities included. Include mean, std dev, min, max, interquartile range, and scores by decile. 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.*

**1b.05) If no or limited data on disparities from the measure as specified is reported above, 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 above.**

# Scientific Acceptability: Maintenance (2ma.01 - 2ma.04)

**2ma.01) Indicate whether additional empirical reliability testing at the accountable entity level has been conducted. If yes, please provide results in the following section, Scientific Acceptability: Reliability - Testing. Include information on all testing conducted (prior testing as well as any new testing).**

***Please separate added or updated information from the most recent measure evaluation within each question response in the Scientific Acceptability sections. For example:***

***Current Submission:***

*Updated testing information here.*

***Previous Submission:***

*Testing from the previous submission here.*

Yes Yes

No No

**2ma.02) Indicate whether additional empirical validity testing at the accountable entity level has been conducted. If yes, please provide results in the following section, Scientific Acceptability: Validity - Testing. Include information on all testing conducted (prior testing as well as any new testing).**

***Please separate added or updated information from the most recent measure evaluation within each question response in the Scientific Acceptability sections. For example:***

***Current Submission:***

*Updated testing information here.*

***Previous Submission:***

*Testing from the previous submission here.*

Yes Yes

No No

**2ma.03) For outcome, patient-reported outcome, resource use, cost, and some process measures, risk adjustment/stratification may be conducted. Did you perform a risk adjustment or stratification analysis?**

Yes Yes

No No

**2ma.04) For maintenance measures in which risk adjustment/stratification has been performed, indicate whether additional risk adjustment testing has been conducted since the most recent maintenance evaluation. This may include updates to the risk adjustment analysis with additional clinical, demographic, and social risk factors.**

**Please update the Scientific Acceptability: Validity - Other Threats to Validity section.**

**Note: This section must be updated even if social risk factors are not included in the risk adjustment strategy.**

Yes - Additional risk adjustment analysis is included Yes - Additional risk adjustment analysis is included

No additional risk adjustment analysis included No additional risk adjustment analysis included

# Scientific Acceptability: Reliability - Testing (2a.01 - 2a.12)

Measure testing must demonstrate adequate reliability and validity in order to be recommended for endorsement. Testing may be conducted for data elements and/or the computed measure score. Testing information and results should be entered in the appropriate fields in the Scientific Acceptability sections of the Measure Submission Form.

* Measures must be tested for all the data sources and levels of analyses that are specified. If there is more than one set of data specifications or more than one level of analysis, contact NQF staff about how to present all the testing information in one form.
* All required sections must be completed.
* For composites with outcome and resource use measures, Questions 2b.23-2b.37 (Risk Adjustment) also must be completed.
* If specified for multiple data sources/sets of specifications (e.g., claims and EHRs), Questions 2b.11-2b.13 also must be completed.
* An appendix for supplemental materials may be submitted (see Question 1 in the Additional section), but there is no guarantee it will be reviewed.
* Contact NQF staff with any questions. Check for resources at the [Submitting Standards webpage](https://www.qualityforum.org/Measuring_Performance/Submitting_Standards.aspx).
* For information on the most updated guidance on how to address social risk factors variables and testing in this form refer to the release notes for the [2021 Measure Evaluation Criteria and Guidance](https://www.qualityforum.org/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=88439).

Note: The information provided in this form is intended to aid the Standing Committee and other stakeholders in understanding to what degree the testing results for this measure meet NQF’s evaluation criteria for testing.

2a. Reliability testing demonstrates the measure data elements are repeatable, producing the same results a high proportion of the time when assessed in the same population in the same time period and/or that the measure score is precise. For instrument-based measures (including PRO-PMs) and composite performance measures, reliability should be demonstrated for the computed performance score.

2b1. Validity testing demonstrates that the measure data elements are correct and/or the measure score correctly reflects the quality of care provided, adequately identifying differences in quality.  For instrument based measures (including PRO-PMs) and composite performance measures, validity should be demonstrated for the computed performance score.

2b2. Exclusions are supported by the clinical evidence and are of sufficient frequency to warrant inclusion in the specifications of the measure;

AND

If patient preference (e.g., informed decision-making) is a basis for exclusion, there must be evidence that the exclusion impacts performance on the measure; in such cases, the measure must be specified so that the information about patient preference and the effect on the measure is transparent (e.g., numerator category computed separately, denominator exclusion category computed separately).

2b3. For outcome measures and other measures when indicated (e.g., resource use):

• an evidence-based risk-adjustment strategy (e.g., risk models, risk stratification) is specified; is based on patient factors (including clinical and social risk factors) that influence the measured outcome and are present at start of care; 14,15 and has demonstrated adequate discrimination and calibration

OR

• rationale/data support no risk adjustment/ stratification.

2b4. Data analysis of computed measure scores demonstrates that methods for scoring and analysis of the specified measure allow for identification of statistically significant and practically/clinically meaningful 16 differences in performance;

OR

there is evidence of overall less-than-optimal performance.

2b5. If multiple data sources/methods are specified, there is demonstration they produce comparable results.

2b6. Analyses identify the extent and distribution of missing data (or nonresponse) and demonstrate that performance results are not biased due to systematic missing data (or differences between responders and non-responders) and how the specified handling of missing data minimizes bias.

2c. For composite performance measures, empirical analyses support the composite construction approach and demonstrate that:

2c1. the component measures fit the quality construct and add value to the overall composite while achieving the related objective of parsimony to the extent possible; and

2c2. the aggregation and weighting rules are consistent with the quality construct and rationale while achieving the related objective of simplicity to the extent possible.

(if not conducted or results not adequate, justification must be submitted and accepted)

**Definitions**

Reliability testing applies to both the data elements and computed measure score. Examples of reliability testing for data elements include, but are not limited to: inter-rater/abstractor or intra-rater/abstractor studies; internal consistency for multi-item scales; test-retest for survey items. Reliability testing of the measure score addresses precision of measurement (e.g., signal-to-noise).

Validity testing applies to both the data elements and computed measure score. Validity testing of data elements typically analyzes agreement with another authoritative source of the same information. Examples of validity testing of the measure score include, but are not limited to: testing hypotheses that the measures scores indicate quality of care, e.g., measure scores are different for groups known to have differences in quality assessed by another valid quality measure or method; correlation of measure scores with another valid indicator of quality for the specific topic; or relationship to conceptually related measures (e.g., scores on process measures to scores on outcome measures).  Face validity of the measure score as a quality indicator may be adequate if accomplished through a systematic and transparent process, by identified experts, and explicitly addresses whether performance scores resulting from the measure as specified can be used to distinguish good from poor quality. The degree of consensus and any areas of disagreement must be provided/discussed.

Examples of evidence that an exclusion distorts measure results include, but are not limited to: frequency of occurrence, variability of exclusions across providers, and sensitivity analyses with and without the exclusion.

Patient preference is not a clinical exception to eligibility and can be influenced by provider interventions.

Risk factors that influence outcomes should not be specified as exclusions.

With large enough sample sizes, small differences that are statistically significant may or may not be practically or clinically meaningful. The substantive question may be, for example, whether a statistically significant difference of one percentage point in the percentage of patients who received  smoking cessation counseling (e.g., 74 percent v. 75 percent) is clinically meaningful; or whether a statistically significant difference of $25 in cost for an episode of care (e.g., $5,000 v.$5,025) is practically meaningful. Measures with overall less-than-optimal performance may not demonstrate much variability across providers.

Please separate added or updated information from the most recent measure evaluation within each question response in the Scientific Acceptability sections. For example:

**Current Submission:**

Updated testing information here.

**Previous (Year) Submission:**

Testing from the previous submission here.

**2a.01) Select only the data sources for which the measure is tested.**

Assessment Data Assessment Data

Claims Claims

Electronic Health Data Electronic Health Data

Electronic Health Records Electronic Health Records

Instrument-Based Data Instrument-Based Data

Management Data Management Data

Other (specify) Other (specify)

Paper Medical Records Paper Medical Records

Registry Data Registry Data

**2a.02) If an existing dataset was used, identify the specific dataset.**

*The dataset used for testing must be consistent with the measure specifications for target population and healthcare entities being measured; e.g., Medicare Part A claims, Medicaid claims, other commercial insurance, nursing home MDS, home health OASIS, clinical registry).*

**2a.03) Provide the dates of the data used in testing.**

*Use the following format: “MM-DD-YYYY - MM-DD-YYYY”*

**2a.04) Select the levels of analysis for which the measure is tested.**

*Testing must be provided for all the levels specified and intended for measure implementation, e.g., individual clinician, hospital, health plan.*

*Please refrain from selecting the following answer option(s). We are in the process of phasing out these answer options and request that you instead select one of the other answer options as they apply to your measure.*

*Please do not select:*

* *Clinician: Clinician*
* *Population: Population*

Accountable Care Organization Accountable Care Organization

Clinician: Clinician Clinician: Clinician

Clinician: Group/Practice Clinician: Group/Practice

Clinician: Individual Clinician: Individual

Facility Facility

Health Plan Health Plan

Integrated Delivery System Integrated Delivery System

Other (specify) Other (specify)

Population: Community, County or City Population: Community, County or City

Population: Population Population: Population

Population: Regional and State Population: Regional and State

**2a.05) List the measured entities included in the testing and analysis (by level of analysis and data source).**

*Identify the number and descriptive characteristics of measured entities included in the analysis (e.g., size, location, type); if a sample was used, describe how entities were selected for inclusion in the sample.*

**2a.06) Identify the number and descriptive characteristics of patients included in the analysis (e.g., age, sex, race, diagnosis), separated by level of analysis and data source; if a sample was used, describe how patients were selected for inclusion in the sample.**

*If there is a minimum case count used for testing, that minimum must be reflected in the specifications.*

**2a.07) If there are differences in the data or sample used for different aspects of testing (e.g., reliability, validity, exclusions, risk adjustment), identify how the data or sample are different for each aspect of testing.**

**2a.08) List the social risk factors that were available and analyzed.**

*For example, patient-reported data (e.g., income, education, language), proxy variables when social risk data are not collected from each patient (e.g. census tract), or patient community characteristics (e.g. percent vacant housing, crime rate) which do not have to be a proxy for patient-level data.*

Note: If accuracy/correctness (validity) of data elements was empirically tested, separate reliability testing of data elements is not required – in 2a.09 check patient or encounter-level data; in 2a.010 enter “see validity testing section of data elements”; and enter “N/A” for 2a.11 and 2a.12.

**2a.09) Select the level of reliability testing conducted.**

*Choose one or both levels.*Patient or Encounter-Level (e.g., inter-abstractor reliability; data element reliability must address ALL critical data elements) Patient or Encounter-Level (e.g., inter-abstractor reliability; data element reliability must address ALL critical data elements)

Accountable Entity Level (e.g., signal-to-noise analysis) Accountable Entity Level (e.g., signal-to-noise analysis)

**2a.10) For each level of reliability testing checked above, describe the method of reliability testing and what it tests.**

*Describe the steps―do not just name a method; what type of error does it test; what statistical analysis was used.*

**2a.11) For each level of reliability testing checked above, what were the statistical results from reliability testing?**

*For example, provide the percent agreement and kappa for the critical data elements, or distribution of reliability statistics from a signal-to-noise analysis. For score-level reliability testing, when using a signal-to-noise analysis, more than just one overall statistic should be reported (i.e., to demonstrate variation in reliability across providers). If a particular method yields only one statistic, this should be explained. In addition, reporting of results stratified by sample size is preferred (pg. 18,* [*NQF Measure Evaluation Criteria*](https://www.qualityforum.org/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=88439)*).*

**2a.12) Interpret the results, in terms of how they demonstrate reliability.**

*(In other words, what do the results mean and what are the norms for the test conducted?)*

# Scientific Acceptability: Validity - Testing (2b.01 - 2b.04)

**2b.01) Select the level of validity testing that was conducted.**

Patient or Encounter-Level (data element validity must address ALL critical data elements) Patient or Encounter-Level (data element validity must address ALL critical data elements)

Accountable Entity Level (e.g. hospitals, clinicians) Accountable Entity Level (e.g. hospitals, clinicians)

Empirical validity testing Empirical validity testing

Systematic assessment of face validity of performance measure score as an indicator of quality or resource use (i.e., is an accurate reflection of performance on quality or resource use and can distinguish good from poor performance)  Systematic assessment of face validity of performance measure score as an indicator of quality or resource use (i.e., is an accurate reflection of performance on quality or resource use and can distinguish good from poor performance)

**2b.02) For each level of testing checked above, describe the method of validity testing and what it tests.**

*Describe the steps―do not just name a method; what was tested, e.g., accuracy of data elements compared to authoritative source, relationship to another measure as expected; what statistical analysis was used.*

**2b.03) Provide the statistical results from validity testing.**

*Examples may include correlations or t-test results.*

**2b.04) Provide your interpretation of the results in terms of demonstrating validity. (i.e., what do the results mean and what are the norms for the test conducted?)**

# Scientific Acceptability: Validity - Threats to Validity (Statistically Significant Differences, Multiple Data Sources, Missing Data) (2b.23 - 2b.32)

**2b.05) Describe the method for determining if statistically significant and clinically/practically meaningful differences in performance measure scores among the measured entities can be identified.**

*Describe the steps―do not just name a method; what statistical analysis was used? Do not just repeat the information provided in Importance to Measure and Report: Gap in Care/Disparities.*

**2b.06) Describe the statistical results from testing the ability to identify statistically significant and/or clinically/practically meaningful differences in performance measure scores across measured entities.**

*Examples may include number and percentage of entities with scores that were statistically significantly different from mean or some benchmark, different from expected; how was meaningful difference defined.*

**2b.07) Provide your interpretation of the results in terms of demonstrating the ability to identify statistically significant and/or clinically/practically meaningful differences in performance across measured entities.**

*In other words, what do the results mean in terms of statistical and meaningful differences?*

**2b.08) Describe the method of testing conducted to identify the extent and distribution of missing data (or non-response) and demonstrate that performance results are not biased due to systematic missing data (or differences between responders and non-responders). Include how the specified handling of missing data minimizes bias.**

*Describe the steps―do not just name a method; what statistical analysis was used.*

**2b.09) Provide the overall frequency of missing data, the distribution of missing data across providers, and the results from testing related to missing data.**

*For example, provide results of sensitivity analysis of the effect of various rules for missing data/non-response. If no empirical sensitivity analysis was conducted, identify the approaches for handling missing data that were considered and benefits and drawbacks of each).*

**2b.10) Provide your interpretation of the results, in terms of demonstrating that performance results are not biased due to systematic missing data (or differences between responders and non-responders), and how the specified handling of missing data minimizes bias.**

*In other words, what do the results mean in terms of supporting the selected approach for missing data and what are the norms for the test conducted; if no empirical analysis was conducted, justify the selected approach for missing data.*

Note: This item is directed to measures that are risk-adjusted (with or without social risk factors) OR to measures with more than one set of specifications/instructions (e.g., one set of specifications for how to identify and compute the measure from medical record abstraction and a different set of specifications for claims or eCQMs). It does not apply to measures that use more than one source of data in one set of specifications/instructions (e.g., claims data to identify the denominator and medical record abstraction for the numerator). Comparability is not required when comparing performance scores with and without social risk factors in the risk adjustment model. However, if comparability is not demonstrated for measures with more than one set of specifications/instructions, the different specifications (e.g., for medical records vs. claims) should be submitted as separate measures.

**2b.11) Indicate whether there is more than one set of specifications for this measure.**

Yes, there is more than one set of specifications for this measure Yes, there is more than one set of specifications for this measure

No, there is only one set of specifications for this measure No, there is only one set of specifications for this measure

**2b.12) Describe the method of testing conducted to compare performance scores for the same entities across the different data sources/specifications.**

*Describe the steps―do not just name a method. Indicate what statistical analysis was used.*

**2b.13) Provide the statistical results from testing comparability of performance scores for the same entities when using different data sources/specifications.**

*Examples may include correlation, and/or rank order.*

**2b.14) Provide your interpretation of the results in terms of the differences in performance measure scores for the same entities across the different data sources/specifications.**

*In other words, what do the results mean and what are the norms for the test conducted.*

# Scientific Acceptability: Validity - Other Threats to Validity (Exclusions, Risk Adjustment) (2b.15 - 2b.32)

**2b.15) Indicate whether the measure uses exclusions.**

N/A or no exclusions N/A or no exclusions

Yes, the measure uses exclusions. Yes, the measure uses exclusions.

**2b.16) Describe the method of testing exclusions and what was tested.**

*Describe the steps―do not just name a method; what was tested, e.g., whether exclusions affect overall performance scores; what statistical analysis was used?*

**2b.17) Provide the statistical results from testing exclusions.**

*Include overall number and percentage of individuals excluded, frequency distribution of exclusions across measured entities, and impact on performance measure scores.*

**2b.18) Provide your interpretation of the results, in terms of demonstrating that exclusions are needed to prevent unfair distortion of performance results.**

*In other words, the value outweighs the burden of increased data collection and analysis. Note: If patient preference is an exclusion, the measure must be specified so that the effect on the performance score is transparent, e.g., scores with and without exclusion.*

**2b.19) Check all methods used to address risk factors.**

Statistical risk model with risk factors (specify number of risk factors) Statistical risk model with risk factors (specify number of risk factors)

Stratification by risk category (specify number of categories) Stratification by risk category (specify number of categories)

Other (specify) Other (specify)

No risk adjustment or stratification No risk adjustment or stratification

**2b.20) If using statistical risk models, provide detailed risk model specifications, including the risk model method, risk factors, risk factor data sources, coefficients, equations, codes with descriptors, and definitions.**

**2b.21) If an outcome or resource use measure is not risk-adjusted or stratified, provide rationale and analyses to demonstrate that controlling for differences in patient characteristics (i.e., case mix) is not needed to achieve fair comparisons across measured entities.**

**2b.22) Select all applicable resources and methods used to develop the conceptual model of how social risk impacts this outcome.**

Published literature Published literature

Internal data analysis Internal data analysis

Other (specify) Other (specify)

**2b.23) Describe the conceptual and statistical methods and criteria used to test and select patient-level risk factors (e.g., clinical factors, social risk factors) used in the statistical risk model or for stratification by risk.**

*Please be sure to address the following: potential factors identified in the literature and/or expert panel; regression analysis; statistical significance of p<0.10 or other statistical tests; correlation of x or higher. Patient factors should be present at the start of care, if applicable. Also discuss any “ordering” of risk factor inclusion; note whether social risk factors are added after all clinical factors. Discuss any considerations regarding data sources (e.g., availability, specificity).*

**2b.24) Detail the statistical results of the analyses used to test and select risk factors for inclusion in or exclusion from the risk model/stratification.**

**2b.25) Describe the analyses and interpretation resulting in the decision to select or not select social risk factors.**

*Examples may include prevalence of the factor across measured entities, availability of the data source, empirical association with the outcome, contribution of unique variation in the outcome, or assessment of between-unit effects and within-unit effects. Also describe the impact of adjusting for risk (or making no adjustment) on providers at high or low extremes of risk.*

**2b.26) Describe the method of testing/analysis used to develop and validate the adequacy of the statistical model or stratification approach (describe the steps―do not just name a method; what statistical analysis was used). Provide the statistical results from testing the approach to control for differences in patient characteristics (i.e., case mix) below. If stratified ONLY, enter “N/A” for questions about the statistical risk model discrimination and calibration statistics.**

*Validation testing should be conducted in a data set that is separate from the one used to develop the model.*

**2b.27) Provide risk model discrimination statistics.**

*For example, provide c-statistics or R-squared values.*

**2b.28) Provide the statistical risk model calibration statistics (e.g., Hosmer-Lemeshow statistic).**

**2b.29) Provide the risk decile plots or calibration curves used in calibrating the statistical risk model.**

*The preferred file format is .png, but most image formats are acceptable.*

**2b.30) Provide the results of the risk stratification analysis.**

**2b.31) Provide your interpretation of the results, in terms of demonstrating adequacy of controlling for differences in patient characteristics (i.e., case mix).**

*In other words, what do the results mean and what are the norms for the test conducted?*

**2b.32) Describe any additional testing conducted to justify the risk adjustment approach used in specifying the measure.**

*Not required but would provide additional support of adequacy of the risk model, e.g., testing of risk model in another data set; sensitivity analysis for missing data; other methods that were assessed.*

# Feasibility (3.01 - 3.07)

**3.01) Check all methods below that are used to generate the data elements needed to compute the measure score.**

Generated or collected by and used by healthcare personnel during the provision of care (e.g., blood pressure, lab value, diagnosis, depression score) 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-10 codes on claims) Coded by someone other than person obtaining original information (e.g., DRG, ICD-10 codes on claims)

Abstracted from a record by someone other than person obtaining original information (e.g., chart abstraction for quality measure or registry) Abstracted from a record by someone other than person obtaining original information (e.g., chart abstraction for quality measure or registry)

Other (Please describe) Other (Please describe)

**3.02) Detail to what extent the specified data elements are available electronically in defined fields.**

*In other words, indicate whether data elements that are needed to compute the performance measure score are in defined, computer-readable fields.*ALL data elements are in defined fields in electronic health records (EHRs) ALL data elements are in defined fields in electronic health records (EHRs)

ALL data elements are in defined fields in electronic claims ALL data elements are in defined fields in electronic claims

ALL data elements are in defined fields in electronic clinical data (e.g., clinical registry, nursing home MDS, home health OASIS) ALL data elements are in defined fields in electronic clinical data (e.g., clinical registry, nursing home MDS, home health OASIS)

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

Some data elements are in defined fields in electronic sources Some data elements are in defined fields in electronic sources

No data elements are in defined fields in electronic sources No data elements are in defined fields in electronic sources

Patient/family reported information (may be electronic or paper) Patient/family reported information (may be electronic or paper)

**3.03) 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 data elements not from electronic sources.**

**3.04) Describe any efforts to develop an eCQM.**

**3.05) Complete and attach the**[**NQF Feasibility Score Card**](https://www.qualityforum.org/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=89036)**.**

**3.06) 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.**

Consider implications for both individuals providing data (patients, service recipients, respondents) and those whose performance is being measured.

**3.07) Detail 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),**

**Attach the fee schedule here, if applicable.**

# Use (4a.01 - 4a.10)

Extent to which intended audiences (e.g., consumers, purchasers, providers, policy makers) can understand the results of the measure and are likely to find them useful for decision making.

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 demonstrating performance improvement.

**4a.01) Check all current uses. For each current use checked, please provide:**

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

Public Reporting Public Reporting

Public Health/Disease Surveillance Public Health/Disease Surveillance

Payment Program Payment Program

Regulatory and Accreditation Programs Regulatory and Accreditation Programs

Professional Certification or Recognition Program Professional Certification or Recognition Program

Quality Improvement with Benchmarking (external benchmarking to multiple organizations) Quality Improvement with Benchmarking (external benchmarking to multiple organizations)

Quality Improvement (Internal to the specific organization) Quality Improvement (Internal to the specific organization)

Not in use Not in use

Use unknown Use unknown

Other (specify) Other (specify)

**4a.02) Check all planned uses.**

Public reporting Public reporting

Public Health/Disease Surveillance Public Health/Disease Surveillance

Payment Program Payment Program

Regulatory and Accreditation Program Regulatory and Accreditation Program

Professional Certification or Recognition Program Professional Certification or Recognition Program

Quality Improvement with Benchmarking (external benchmarking to multiple organizations) Quality Improvement with Benchmarking (external benchmarking to multiple organizations)

Quality Improvement (internal to the specific organization) Quality Improvement (internal to the specific organization)

Measure Currently in Use Measure Currently in Use

Other (specify) Other (specify)

**4a.03) If not currently publicly reported OR used in at least one other accountability application (e.g., payment program, certification, licensing), explain why the measure is not in use.**

*For example, do policies or actions of the developer/steward or accountable entities restrict access to performance results or block implementation?*

**4a.04) If not currently publicly reported OR used in at least one other accountability application, provide a credible plan for implementation within the expected timeframes: used in any accountability application within 3 years, and publicly reported within 6 years of initial endorsement.**

*A 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.*

**4a.05) Describe how performance results, data, and assistance with interpretation have been provided to those being measured or other users during development or implementation.**

*Detail 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.*

**4a.06) Describe the process for providing measure results, including when/how often results were provided, what data were provided, what educational/explanatory efforts were made, etc.**

**4a.07) Summarize the feedback on measure performance and implementation from the measured entities and others. Describe how feedback was obtained.**

**4a.08) Summarize the feedback obtained from those being measured.**

**4a.09) Summarize the feedback obtained from other users.**

**4a.10) Describe how the feedback described has been considered when developing or revising the measure specifications or implementation, including whether the measure was modified and why or why not.**

# Usability (4b.01 - 4b.03)

**4b.01) You may refer to data provided in Importance to Measure and Report: Gap in Care/Disparities, 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, provide an explanation. 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.**

**4b.02) Explain any unexpected findings (positive or negative) during implementation of this measure, including unintended impacts on patients.**

**4b.03) Explain any unexpected benefits realized from implementation of this measure.**

# Related and Competing (5.01 - 5.06)

If you are updating a maintenance measure submission for the first time in MIMS, please note that the previous related and competing data appearing in question 5.03 may need to be entered in to 5.01 and 5.02, if the measures are NQF endorsed. Please review and update questions 5.01, 5.02, and 5.03 accordingly.

**5.01) Search and select all NQF-endorsed related measures (conceptually, either same measure focus or target population).**

*(Can search and select measures.)*

**5.02) Search and select all NQF-endorsed competing measures (conceptually, the measures have both the same measure focus or target population).**

*(Can search and select measures.)*

**5.03) If there are related or competing measures to this measure, but they are not NQF-endorsed, please indicate the measure title and steward.**

**5.04) If this measure conceptually addresses EITHER the same measure focus OR the same target population as NQF-endorsed measure(s), indicate whether the measure specifications are harmonized to the extent possible.**

Yes Yes

No No

**5.05) If the measure specifications are not completely harmonized, identify the differences, rationale, and impact on interpretability and data collection burden.**

**5.06) Describe why this measure is superior to competing measures (e.g., a more valid or efficient way to measure quality). Alternatively, justify endorsing an additional measure.**

*Provide analyses when possible.*

# Additional (1 - 9)

**1) Provide any supplemental materials, if needed, as an appendix. All supplemental materials (such as data collection instrument or methodology reports) should be collated one file with a table of contents or bookmarks. If material pertains to a specific criterion, that should be indicated.**

Available in attached file Available in attached file

No appendix No appendix

Available at measure-specific web page URL identified in sp.09 Available at measure-specific web page URL identified in sp.09

**2) List the workgroup/panel members' names and organizations.**

*Describe the members' role in measure development.*

**3) Indicate the year the measure was first released.**

**4) Indicate the month and year of the most recent revision.**

**5) Indicate the frequency of review, or an update schedule, for this measure.**

**6) Indicate the next scheduled update or review of this measure.**

**7) Provide a copyright statement, if applicable. Otherwise, indicate “N/A”.**

**8) State any disclaimers, if applicable. Otherwise, indicate “N/A”.**

**9) Provide any additional information or comments, if applicable. Otherwise, indicate “N/A”.**