



**CALL FOR MEASURES AND MEASURE CONCEPTS:
Cardiovascular Endorsement Maintenance**

NQF is seeking new measures and concepts on any cardiovascular condition or treatment (except cardiovascular surgery measures, which are considered under the “surgery” topic area at any level analysis or setting of care, or cerebrovascular measures, which are considered under the "neurology" topic area).

NQF is particularly interested in:

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

This project launched **October 25, 2013**. The final submission deadline is **December 23, 2013**.

BACKGROUND

Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death for men and women in the United States. It accounts for approximately \$312.6 billion in health care expenditures annually. Coronary heart disease (CHD accounts for 1 of every 6 deaths in the United States.¹ Hypertension—a major risk factor for heart disease, stroke, and kidney disease—affects 1 in 3 Americans, with an estimated annual cost of \$156 billion in medical costs, lost productivity, and premature deaths.²

This project seeks to identify and endorse measures for public reporting and quality improvement that specifically address cardiovascular conditions, including hypertension, coronary artery disease, acute myocardial infarction, PCI, heart failure, atrial fibrillation, or any

¹ Lloyd-Jones D, Adams RJ, Brown TM, et al., Heart disease and stroke statistics—2013 update: a report from the American Heart Association Statistics Committee and Stroke Statistics Subcommittee, *Circulation*, 2013;127:e6-e10.

² "HHS Secretary Sebelius Statement on National High Blood Pressure Education Month." U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS), 2 May 2012. Available at <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2012pres/05/20120502a.html>. Last accessed October 2013.



other heart disease, and any treatments, diagnostic studies, interventions, procedures (excluding surgical procedures), or outcomes associated with these conditions.

A total of 78 cardiovascular measures—including 16 outcome measures, 54 process measures, 4 efficiency measures, and 4 composite measures—have been endorsed by NQF, making this group of measures one of the largest in NQF's measure portfolio. Of these 78 measures, 24 currently are due for maintenance review. Because many cardiovascular measures are in use, harmonization of measures will be a critical aspect of the upcoming evaluation, particularly for similar measures at different levels of analysis or similar measures specified for different settings of care.

MEASURE CONCEPTS

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

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

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

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

NQF's Measure Inventory Pipeline will be available for concept submissions in November, 2013.

MEASURE SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

To submit a measure, please complete the following:

Measure Submissions Due By Monday, December 23, 2013, 6:00 PM ET



- [Measure Submission Form](#) Clicking on this link will redirect you to the webpage for this project, from which you can access the online measure submission form.
- [Measure Steward Agreement](#) Please note that no materials will be accepted without submission of a fully executed *Measure Steward Agreement Form*. All materials not meeting this requirement will be returned to the sender.

Materials must be submitted using the online submission form by 6:00 pm, ET December 23, 2013. If you have any questions, please contact Farhia Mussa or Wunmi Isijola at 202-783-1300, or via e-mail at cardiovascular@qualityforum.org. Thank you for your interest.

Conditions for Consideration:

- The measure owner/steward verifies there is an identified responsible entity and process to maintain and update the measure on a schedule that is commensurate with the rate of clinical innovation, but at least every three years.³
- The intended use of the measure includes both public accountability and quality improvement.
- The measure is fully specified and [tested for reliability and validity](#). Measures that are not tested will not be accepted in this project.
- The measure developer/steward attests that [harmonization](#) with related measures and issues with competing measures have been considered and addressed, as appropriate.
- The requested measure submission information is complete and responsive to the questions so that all the information needed to evaluate all [criteria](#) is provided.

Submission Guidance:

- [Developer guidebook](#):
 - A Developer Guidebook as has been created to assist developers in the measure submission and evaluation process. The Guidebook contains all the information developers need to know when submitting a measure to NQF.
- ICD-10-CM/PCS:
 - Beginning April 1, 2013, measures specified with administrative claims data must submit a set of ICD-9-CM and ICD-10-CM/PCS codes. Click [here](#) for further information on this requirement.
- eMeasures:
 - Must be specified in the Heath Quality Measures Format (HQMF) and use the Quality Data Model (QDM) and value sets vetted through the National Library of Medicine's Value Set Authority Center (VSAC);

³ Measure stewards must execute a Measure Steward Agreement with NQF.



- Review the [current measure evaluation criteria and guidance](#).
- Composite measures:
 - Please notify project staff if you plan to submit a composite measure

Technical Assistance

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

MEASURE SUBMISSION COMPLETENESS CHECKLIST

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

RESOURCES FOR MEASURE DEVELOPERS AND STEWARDS

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

- [Submitting Standards Web Page](#)
- [Measure Evaluation Criteria Web Page](#)

One these pages you will find the most current criteria and guidance for evaluating the criteria as well as examples of responses for the measure submission form, and special reports.



NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM

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

Evaluation and Measure Submission Guidance:

- [eMeasure Testing Guidance Report](#)
- [Guidance on Quality Performance Measure Construction](#)
- [Evidence and Importance to Measure and Report](#)
- [Measure Testing and Scientific Acceptability of Measure Properties](#)
- [Composite Evaluation Criteria](#)
- [Resource Use Measure Evaluation Criteria](#)
- [Endorsement Maintenance Policy](#)