



CALL FOR MEASURES:

National Voluntary Consensus Standards for Cost and Resource Use: Phase 1

In January 2010, NQF released the [Measurement Framework: Evaluating Efficiency Across Patient-Focused Episodes of Care](#), which addressed cost and resource use as one of the three overarching domains for assessing efficiency. This framework advised that measures of resource use and cost should acknowledge the value of measuring actual prices paid, standardized prices, in addition to measuring overall utilization. Further, inappropriate care, including failing to provide an evidence-based intervention to an eligible patient or administering an intervention that is unwarranted, cannot be efficient.

Later in 2010, NQF embarked on its first effort to evaluate and endorse cost and resource use measures to expand the NQF portfolio of endorsed cost and resource use measures that in turn could be used as building blocks toward understanding efficiency and value. This learning was captured in the [final](#) and [technical reports](#), yielded the first eight endorsed cost and resource use measures in the NQF portfolio, and the [NQF Resource Use Measure Evaluation Criteria](#). The work in this first consensus development project on cost and resource use measures will serve as the foundation for this project.

For the purposes of this project, *resource use measures* are defined as broadly applicable and comparable measures of health services counts (in terms of units or dollars) that are applied to a population or event (broadly defined to include diagnoses, procedures, or encounters). A resource use measure counts the frequency of defined health system resources; some may further apply a dollar amount (e.g., allowable charges, paid amounts, or standardized prices) to each unit of resource use. Current approaches for measuring resource use range from broadly focused measures, such as per capita measures, which address total healthcare spending (or resource use) per person, to those with a more narrow focus, such as measures dealing with the healthcare spending or resource use of an individual procedure (e.g., a hip replacement). Although resource use measures alone do not capture efficiency, through the measurement of resource use, providers and other stakeholders can associate a measure of cost with a specified level of quality of care toward understanding the efficiency of care for a population.

In this phase, NQF is seeking non-condition specific measures of total cost, using both per-capita or per-hospitalization approaches for evaluation through the Consensus Development Process (CDP).

Non-condition specific measures may include the following types of measures:

- Total cost for population
- Per capita total cost (e.g., PMPM)
- Per admission/hospitalization



- The following types of measures will **NOT** be accepted during this project:
 - Untested measures
 - Composite resource use measures (e.g., two or more individual resource use measures combined to produce one composite resource use score)
 - Readmission measures

NQF is particularly interested in measures:

- applicable to more than one setting;
- that capture broad populations, including children and adolescents where applicable;
- sensitive to vulnerable populations, including racial/ethnic minorities; and Medicaid populations.

This project launched November 13, 2012. The final submission deadline is **January 31, 2013 at 6:00pm ET**.

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.¹
- The intended use of the measure includes both public reporting and quality improvement.
- The measure is fully specified and tested for reliability and validity. Measures that are not tested will not be reviewed 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.

To submit a measure, please complete the following:

- Online measure submission form (available on the [project page](#))
- [Measure Steward Agreement](#)

Please note that no material 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.

¹ Measure stewards must execute a [Measure Steward Agreement](#) with NQF.



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Materials must be submitted using the online submission form by 6:00 pm, ET January 31, 2013. If you have any questions, please contact, Ashlie Wilbon, MPH, RN, at (202) 559-9478 or via e-mail at efficiency@qualityforum.org.