

NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM

CALL FOR MEASURES: COST AND RESOURCE USE

This consensus development project (CDP) focuses on identifying measures of cost and resource use. Resource use measures are broadly applicable and comparable measures of input counts (in terms of units or dollars) applied to a population or population sample and count the frequency of specific resources (these resource units may be monetized as appropriate). Although resource use measures alone do not capture efficiency, they can be used as a building block toward understanding 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.

This call for measures marks the beginning of the second phase of NQF work focused on resource use. The first phase was dedicated to understanding the measurement and evaluation of resource use measures and resulted in the [NQF Resource Use Measure Evaluation Criteria](#). These criteria are based on the current NQF Measure Evaluation Criteria and also account for important attributes necessary to evaluate the resource use measures.

NQF will solicit measures within five condition areas including cardiovascular, diabetes, bone and joint, cancer, and pulmonary, as well as non-condition-specific measures.

- Condition-specific measures, including the following types of measures:
 - a) Episode-based
 - b) Per capita
 - c) Procedure-specific
 - d) Per admission
- Non-condition specific measures
- The following types of measures will NOT be accepted during this project:
 - a) Untested measures
 - b) Paired measures (e.g., two or more individual measures that must be used together as a bundle or pair)
 - c) Composite resource use measures (e.g., two or more individual resource use measures combined to produce one composite resource use score)
 - d) Readmission measures

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Due to the number of conditions, the Call for Measures will be conducted in two cycles:

Cycle 1

Cardiovascular, Stroke, Diabetes, Non-condition specific

- Congestive Heart Failure (CHF)
- Coronary artery disease (CAD)
- Acute myocardial infarction (AMI)
- Stroke
- Diabetes
- Non-condition specific (e.g., per capita-population)

*The Call for Measures for Cycle 1 will begin on **January 31, 2011.***

*The online submission forms for this group of measure submissions will be available **January 31, 2011.***

Cycle 2

Pulmonary

- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
- Asthma
- Pneumonia

Cancer

- Breast Cancer
- Colorectal Cancer

Bone/Joint

- Hip/Knee replacement
- Hip/Pelvic fracture
- Low back pain

*The Call for Measures for Cycle 2 **will begin on March 2, 2011.***

*The online submission forms for this group of measure submissions will be available **January 31, 2011.***

Any organization or individual may submit measures for consideration. To be evaluated, candidate consensus standards must be within the scope of the project and meet the following general conditions as specified in the [resource use measure evaluation criteria](#):

- The measure is in the public domain¹ or a [Measure Steward Agreement](#) is signed.

¹ NQF requires any nongovernment organization submitting a measure for endorsement to execute a Measure Steward Agreement that addresses intellectual property protection and disclosure of the measure's proprietary components, including but

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- 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.²
- 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:

- [Resource Use Online 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 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.

Materials must be submitted using the online submission process by 6:00 pm, ET on Tuesday, March 1 for Cycle 1 measures, and Tuesday, March 31 for Cycle 2 measures. If you have any questions, please contact, Ashlie Wilbon, MPH, BSN, at (202) 559-9478, or Sarah Fanta at (202) 559-9470 or via e-mail at efficiency@qualityforum.org.

not limited to specifications, risk-adjustment methodologies, data collection instrument, data collection or analysis software, and database access. For details, please see the [Policy on Endorsement of Proprietary Measures](#).

² Measure stewards must execute a [Measure Steward Agreement](#) with NQF.