



**CALL FOR MEASURES AND MEASURE CONCEPTS:
Endocrine Endorsement Maintenance Project**

NQF is seeking new measures in the areas of diabetes, osteoporosis, thyroid disease or any other endocrine condition and any treatments, diagnostic studies, interventions, or procedures associated with these conditions.

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 14, 2013**. This project will pilot more frequent opportunities for measure submission and review. The first submission deadline is **December 6, 2013**.

BACKGROUND

Diabetes affects 25.8 million people or 8.3% of the US population and is the leading cause of kidney failure, non-traumatic lower limb amputations and new cases of blindness. Diabetes is a major cause of heart disease and stroke and is the seventh leading cause of death.

Osteoporosis is the most common cause of fractures – roughly 10 million individuals over age 50 in the US have osteoporosis of the hip. An additional 33.6 million individuals over age 50 have low bone mass or “osteopenia” of the hip and thus are at risk for osteoporosis and its potential complications later in life.

NQF currently has more than thirty endorsed measures in the areas of diabetes and osteoporosis. The diabetes measures in NQF’s portfolio are some of the longest standing NQF endorsed measures. Since diabetes and osteoporosis are high volume, high morbidity, high cost conditions, identifying new measures in this area is critical to continue to drive improvements in quality.

IMPROVEMENTS TO THE CONSENSUS DEVELOPMENT PROCESS



Stakeholders have indicated a need for more frequent opportunities for measure submission and a need for greater consistency in evaluation of measures. As NQF performs the endorsement maintenance review of measures in endocrine topic areas this project will pilot more frequent opportunities for measure submission so developers do not have to wait as much as three years to submit new measures. A Standing Steering Committee will guide the evaluation of endocrine measures over several years. The Standing Committee can evaluate the entire portfolio of measures over 2-3 years, foster harmonization and alignment, and identify important gaps in the endocrine portfolio.

MEASURE CONCEPTS

In addition to soliciting fully-developed measures for consensus-based endorsement review, NQF is also soliciting measure concepts 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 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.

PROCESS PARTICIPATION

Measure developers are strongly encouraged to attend (either in person or via web/conference call) the following scheduled meeting dates to represent their measure(s) and respond to questions from the Committee and members of the public.

Scheduled meeting dates

Meeting	Date/Time
Steering Committee Orientation Webinar (2 hours)	January 14, 2014 3:00-5:00pm ET
Workgroup Webinars (2 hours)	February 4, 2014 1:00-3:00pm ET or February 7, 2014 1:00-3:00pm ET February 11, 2014 1:00-3:00pm ET February 18, 2014 1:00-3:00pm ET
In-person meeting (2 days in Washington, DC)	February 26, 2014 8:30AM-5:00PM EST to February 27, 2014 8:30AM-3:00PM EST
Post-Meeting Webinar (2 hours)	March 12, 2014 1:00-3:00pm ET
Post Draft Report Comment Webinar (2 hours)	May 20, 2014 3:00-5:00pm ET
Measure Evaluation Webinar (next review period)	July 8, 2014 3:00-5:00pm ET
Post Draft Report Comment Call	September 2014 (date TBD)
Measure Evaluation Webinar	February 2015 (date TBD)
Post Draft Report Comment Call	April 2015 (TBD)

If you have a fully-developed and tested measure that is ready for submission to NQF (or will be within 12 months), please notify the NQF project staff **no later than November 1, 2013**: Kathryn Streeter or Lindsey Tighe at 202-783-1300 or endocrine@qualityforum.org.

Materials must be submitted using the online submission form by 6:00 pm, ET on December 6, 2013 for the first review. The submission deadlines for subsequent reviews will be June 6, 2014 and December 5, 2014.

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 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 with the measure submission and evaluation processes. 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 Health 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);
 - 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.

¹ Measure stewards must execute a Measure Steward Agreement with NQF.



- There are responses in all fields on measure submission form (MSF).
- Attachments included: eMeasure specifications (S.2a); data dictionary/code list (S.2b); Evidence and Measure Testing appendices.
- 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? (see Harmonization process in [Developer Guidebook](#))
- Paired measures should be submitted on separate forms.
- An eMeasure must be submitted in HQMF format and the quality data model (QDM).
- Composite measures (contains individual measures with a single score) - responses to the composite measure questions are included.
- Both ICD-9 and ICD-10 codes included

RESOURCES FOR MEASURE DEVELOPERS AND STEWARDS

For more details on measure evaluation criteria, please see the following reports:

- [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](#)