

CALL FOR MEASURES AND MEASURE CONCEPTS:

Care of the Senses: Eye Care and Ear, Nose and Throat Conditions¹

NQF is seeking new measures and concepts relating to diseases and disorders of the visual pathways, including the eye, brain, and areas surrounding the eye, and measures and concepts relating to diseases and disorders of the ear, nose, throat (ENT) and related structures of the head and neck.

NQF is seeking new measures and concepts in several areas related to the senses:

- Eye care, including vision and conditions affecting the eye and eyesight;
- Care of diseases and disorders of the ear, nose and throat (otolaryngology); and
- Hearing and speech conditions,

NQF is particularly interested in measures:

- 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 **September 30, 2014**. The final submission deadline is **March 27, 2015**.

BACKGROUND

Glaucoma, cataracts, and macular degeneration are common eye conditions that threaten the eyesight of many patients annually. Blindness and vision impairment are major public health problems that take a substantial toll on individuals and society including significant suffering, disability, loss of productivity, and diminished quality of life for millions of people. More than 3.4 million (3%) Americans 40 years and older are either blind or are visually impaired and millions more are at risk for developing vision impairment and blindness.²

¹To more closely align with clinical practice, NQF is renaming the Head Eyes Ears Nose and Throat project to “Eye Care and Ear, Nose and Throat Conditions,” which encompasses diseases and disorders of the visual pathways, including the eye, brain, and areas surrounding the eye, and measures and concepts relating to diseases and disorders of the ear, nose, throat (ENT) and related structures of the head and neck.

²Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Improving the Nation’s Vision Health: A Coordinated Public Health Approach. Atlanta, GA: CDC; 2009. Available at http://www.cdc.gov/visionhealth/publications/vhi_report.htm.

Hearing loss affects one in ten Americans. About 35 million people develop chronic sinusitis each year, making it one of the most common health complaints in America. In 2010 there were an estimated 20 million visits to otolaryngologists in America, and one-fifth of the visits were made by persons less than 15 years of age.³

This project seeks to identify and endorse performance measures for accountability and quality improvement that address eye care and ear nose and throat health. NQF currently has over eighteen (18) endorsed measures that are due for maintenance in the areas of glaucoma, macular degeneration, hearing screening and evaluation, and ear infections. These maintenance measures will be reevaluated against the most recent NQF measure evaluation criteria along with newly submitted measures.

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 Standing Committee against the NQF Criteria. Submitted information will be catalogued by NQF and used to help inform the Standing 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.

³ Centers for Disease Control (CDC). National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey Factsheet: Otolaryngology. Atlanta, GA;2010. Available at www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/ahcd/NAMCS_2010_factsheet_otolaryngology.pdf.

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
Standing Committee Orientation Webinar (2 hours)	April 6, 2015, 12:00PM- 2:00PM ET
Workgroup Webinars (2 hours)	May 11, 2015, 12:00PM-2:00PM ET May 15, 2015, 12:00PM-2:00PM ET May 18, 2015, 3:00PM-5:00PM ET May 21, 2015, 12:00PM- 2:00PM ET
In-person meeting (2 days in Washington, DC)	June 3, 2015- June 4, 2015, 9:00AM- 5:00PM ET
Post-Meeting Webinar (2 hours)	June 22, 2015, 12:00PM-2:00PM ET
Post Draft Report Comment Webinar (2 hours)	August 21, 2015, 12:00PM-2:00PM ET

Materials must be submitted using the online submission form by 6:00 pm, ET on March 27, 2015. If you have any questions, please contact Quintin Dukes or Shaconna Gorham, at 202-783- 1300 or via e-mail at EENT@qualityforum.org.

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.⁴
- The intended use of the measure includes both public accountability and quality improvement.

⁴Measure stewards must execute a Measure Steward Agreement with NQF.



- 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);
 - 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
- ☐ All conditions for submission are met.
- ☐ 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 in the [Developer Guidebook](#)).

- ☐ 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](#)

On 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.

- [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](#)