



TO: NQF Members and Public
FR: NQF Staff
RE: Review of eMeasure Feasibility Assessment
DA: January 22, 2013

As quality measurement shifts to measures derived from electronic health records (EHRs), there is less clarity about the testing needed to assure that eMeasures can be used for a range of accountability applications, which require both precision, and results that are reliable and valid. While the concepts of reliability and validity apply equally to measures derived from EHRs, the electronic health record presents additional challenges related to measure testing: widespread EHR data are not yet available for measure development and testing; there is a lack of comparability across vendor products; and data elements needed for advanced measures currently may not be feasible to capture in EHRs.

Realizing the promise of EHRs as a tool for quality reporting will rest on the ability of providers, payers, vendors and other users of the information to know that e-measures provide valid and reliable data. During the public and member comment for NQF's eMeasure Review and Testing Proposal in early 2012, several organizations expressed support that eMeasure testing should incorporate the feasibility of data capture for the data elements utilized in addition to reliability and validity testing. This requirement is significantly hampered by the lack of clarity and definition in the field as to what constitutes feasibility testing for EHRs.

This project seeks to assess the current state of feasibility assessment for new and retooled eMeasures and identify a set of principles and criteria for adequate feasibility assessment. NQF convened a 15-member Technical Expert Panel (TEP) to achieve the following goals of the project:

- conduct an environmental scan of approaches to feasibility assessment from measure developers, government contractors and EHR vendors to gather the current approaches used to assess measure feasibility; and
- review results of environmental scan and propose a set of feasibility recommendations, including a starter set of criteria for eMeasure feasibility assessment that will address the following considerations:
 - the timing of feasibility assessment in the course of measure development (e.g., iterative testing with development, feasibility testing of fully specified measures);
 - the potential differences in feasibility assessment requirements for de novo (new) eMeasures and re-specified eMeasures;
 - the number and diversity of EHRs used for testing and relation to comparability across EHRs in terms of data feasibility, validity, and reliability; and
 - the interrelationship of feasibility and validity testing of new measures.

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The TEP's recommendations are included in the draft document *eMeasure Feasibility Assessment*. Pursuant to section II.A of the Consensus Development Process v. 1.9, this draft document, along with the accompanying material, is being provided to you at this time for purposes of review and comment only and is not intended to be used for voting purposes. You may post your comments and view the comments of others on the [eMeasure Feasibility project page](#).

All comments must be submitted no later than 6:00 pm ET, February 20, 2013.

Thank you for your interest in NQF's work. We look forward to your review and comments.