



**CALL FOR MEASURES AND MEASURE CONCEPTS:
Health and Well-Being¹**

The National Quality Forum (NQF) will review endorsed maintenance measures that address population health and seeks to identify and endorse new measures and concepts that can be used to assess health and well-being across all levels of analysis, including healthcare providers and communities.

NQF is particularly interested in:

- measures that assess health-related behaviors (e.g. smoking, diet) and practices to promote healthy living;
- community-level indicators of health and disease (e.g. disease incidence and prevalence) and community interventions (e.g. mass screening);
- primary prevention and screening (e.g. influenza immunization);
- modifiable social, economic, environmental determinants of health with demonstrable relationship to population health outcomes;
- measures of intermediate clinical outcomes or longer term health outcomes, including complications;
- composite 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 **Monday, October 28, 2013**. The final submission deadline is **Monday, February 17, 2014**.

BACKGROUND

Social, environmental and behavioral factors can have significant negative impact on health outcomes and economic stability², and these along with other upstream determinants

¹ To more closely align to the National Quality Strategy (NQS), NQF is renaming the Population Health project to “Health and Well-Being,” which is defined in the NQS as “working with communities to promote best practices for healthy living.”



contribute to 60 percent of deaths in the United States³; yet only 3 percent of national health expenditures is spent on prevention, while 97 percent is spent on health care services⁴. Population health includes a focus on health and well-being, along with disease and illness, prevention and health promotion, and disparities in outcomes and improvement activities within a group and/or between groups. Developing strategies to strengthen the measurement and analysis of health and well-being given its multi-dimensional focus can be best accomplished using a collaborative approach that includes public health, healthcare delivery systems, and other key sectors whose policies, practices, and procedures influence health. Using the right measures can determine how successful initiatives are in reducing this mortality and excess morbidity and help focus future work to improve population health in appropriate areas.⁵

As an extension of NQF's most recent Population Health Endorsement Maintenance project, which was informed by the National Quality Strategy (NQS) three-tiered approach to working with communities to promote healthy living and well-being and the [Jacobson and Teutsch commissioned paper on Integrated Approaches for Defining and Measuring Total Population Health](#), this current project seeks to identify and endorse measures that can be used to assess health and well-being across all levels of analysis, including healthcare providers and communities. The project will evaluate measures that assess health-related behaviors, community-level indicators of health and disease, primary prevention and screening, practices to promote healthy living, community interventions; and modifiable social, economic, environmental determinants of health with demonstrable relationship to health and well-being.

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:

² Nash DB, Reifsnnyder J, Fabius R, Pracilio VP. *Population Health: Creating a Culture of Wellness*, Sudbury, Massachusetts: Jones & Bartlett Learning; 2011.

³ Kindig DA, Asada Y, Booske B, A population health framework for setting national and state health goals, *JAMA*, 2008;299(17):2081-2083.

⁴ Bipartisan Policy Center. 2012. *Lots to lose: How America's health and obesity crisis threatens our Economic Future*. Washington, DC: Bipartisan Policy Center.

⁵ National Research Council. *Population Health Implications of the Affordable Care Act: Workshop Summary*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press, 2013.



- 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. **(A New Measure Steward Agreement with a guidance document will be posted to the NQF website on November 1, 2013. All Measure Developers will be notified of the posting via blast email.)**

Please note that no material will be accepted without submission of a fully executed *Measure Steward Agreement*. All materials not meeting this requirement will be returned to the sender.

Materials must be submitted using the online submission form by 6:00 pm, ET Monday, February 17, 2014. If you have any questions, please contact or Adeela Khan, Project Manager, or Farhia Mussa, Senior Project Manager at 202-783-1300 or email at healthandwellbeing@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.⁶
- 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 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 submitted in Health Quality Measures Format (HQMF) and the quality data model (QDM);
 - 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!

⁶ Measure stewards must execute a Measure Steward Agreement with NQF.



MEASURE SUBMISSION COMPLETENESS CHECKLIST

- Measure steward agreement or concept agreement is completed and signed, and attached to the submission.
- Conditions for submission are addressed.
- 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)
- 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](#)