

MEASURE WORKSHEET

This document summarizes the evaluation of the measure as it progresses through NQF's Consensus Development Process (CDP). The information submitted by measure developers/stewards is included after the Brief Measure Information, Preliminary Analysis, and Pre-meeting Public and Member Comments sections.

To navigate the links in the worksheet: Ctrl + click link to go to the link; ALT + LEFT ARROW to return

Brief Measure Information

NQF #: 3502

Corresponding Measures:

De.2. Measure Title: Hybrid Hospital-Wide (All-Condition, All-Procedure) Risk-Standardized Mortality Measure

Co.1.1. Measure Steward: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)

De.3. Brief Description of Measure: The measure estimates a hospital-level 30-day risk-standardized mortality rate (RSMR), defined as death from any cause within 30 days after the index admission date for patients who are between the ages of 50 and 94.

Please note that in parallel with the hybrid HWM measure, we are submitting a claims-only HWM measure. Note that ultimately the claims and hybrid measures will be harmonized and use the same exact cohort specifications. The intent is that prior to implementation, the two measures will be exactly the same, with the exception of the additional risk adjustment added by the CCDE in the hybrid measure. This is analogous to the currently endorsed and implemented hybrid hospital-wide readmissions measure (NQF 1789 and NQF 2879e).

Because of the homology between the claims and hybrid HWM measures, there is no reason to suspect that the results of analyses done for the claims-only measure would differ in any significant way from results of analyses for a nationally representative hybrid measure.

Below we highlight the differences between the two measures, including specifications, data used, and testing which reflect limitations of data availability, as well as actual intended differences in the measure (risk adjustment).

Differences in the measure, data, and testing that reflect limitations in data availability

1. Dataset used for development, some testing (see below for differences), and measure results:
 - a. The claims-only measure uses nation-wide Medicare FFS claims and the enrollment database.
 - b. The hybrid measure uses an electronic health record (EHR) database from 21 hospitals in the Kaiser Permanente network which includes inpatient claims data information.
2. Age of patients in cohort:
 - a. The claims-only measure includes Medicare FFS patients, age 65-94.
 - b. The hybrid measure includes all patients age 50-94 (see later discussion for justification)
3. External empiric validity testing
 - a. Not possible for the hybrid measure, due to limited data availability. We provide results from the claims-only measure within the hybrid testing form.
4. Socioeconomic risk factor analyses

a. Not possible for the hybrid measure, due to limited data availability. We provide results from the claims-only measure within the hybrid testing form.

5. Exclusion analyses

a. To be representative of what we expect the impact would be of the measures' exclusions in a nation-wide sample, we provide the results from the claims-only measure.

6. Meaningful differences

a. To be representative of what we expect the range of performance would be in a nation-wide sample, we provide the distribution results from the claims-only measure.

Difference between the two measures when fully harmonized, prior to implementation:

1. Risk adjustment:

a. The claims-only measure uses administrative claims data only for risk adjustment

b. The hybrid measure adds 10 clinical risk variables, derived from a set of core clinical data elements (CCDE) extracted from the EHR.

1b.1. Developer Rationale: The goal of this measure is to improve patient outcomes by providing patients, physicians, hospitals, and policy makers with information about hospital-level, risk-standardized mortality rates following hospitalization for a range of medical conditions and surgical procedures. Measurement of patient outcomes allows for a broad view of quality of care that encompasses more than what can be captured by individual process-of-care measures. Complex and critical aspects of care, such as communication between providers, prevention of and response to complications, patient safety, and coordinated transitions to the outpatient environment, all contribute to patient outcomes but are difficult to measure by individual process measures. The goal of outcomes measurement is to risk-adjust for patients' conditions at the time of hospital admission and then evaluate patient outcomes. This measure was developed to identify institutions whose performance is better or worse than would be expected based on their patient case mix, and therefore promote hospital quality improvement and better inform consumers about care quality. The more granular division-level results can support the targeting of service-line quality improvement.

Mortality is a significant outcome that is meaningful to patients and providers. For the majority of Medicare beneficiaries admitted to acute care hospitals in the US, the goal is to avoid short-term mortality. According to recent internal analyses, from July 2016 to June 2017, there were about 10 million inpatient admissions among Medicare FFS beneficiaries between the ages of 65 and 94, at 4,700 US hospitals. The observed mean 30-day mortality rate was 8.17%. The range of mortality scores on the HWM measure from 4692 acute-care hospitals was 3.95%-8.70% across more than 4.3 million admissions.

This measure incorporates both data from claims as well as clinical data elements pulled from the EHR in risk-adjustment of the mortality model. Some benefits of including the clinical data elements are:

1. Inclusion of patient-level clinical data related to severity of illness is responsive to providers who continue to express preference for using patient-level clinical data, and provides an opportunity to incorporate clinical data into outcome measures.

2. Hospitals will increasingly use EHR data to assess severity of illness and patients' risk of poor outcomes. This provides an opportunity to align the measure with clinical decision support systems that many providers utilize to alert care teams about patients at increased risk of poor outcomes in real time during the inpatient stay.

3. Collecting a simple core set of clinical data elements that perform well as risk-adjustment variables (for illness severity) across conditions can greatly reduce the cost and effort of future measure development, improve harmonization, and create opportunity for longitudinal assessment of patient status and quality of care across settings.

4. These core clinical data elements will provide measure developers with a standard set of reliable data that can be used as a starting place when building risk-adjustment models for quality measures using clinical data.

S.4. Numerator Statement: The outcome for this measure is 30-day, all-cause mortality. Mortality is defined as death from any cause, either during or after admission, within 30 days of the index admission date.

S.6. Denominator Statement: The cohort includes inpatient admissions for a wide variety of conditions for patients aged between 50 and 94 years old who were discharged from short-term acute care hospitals. If a patient has more than one admission during the measurement year, one admission is randomly selected for inclusion in the measure. Additional details are provided in S.7 Denominator Details. The age range for this measure differs from that of the claims-only measure due to the limited size of the dataset used for testing. The intent is to harmonize the age range of the hybrid measure with the age range of the claims-only measure, so that both will include admissions for patients age 65-94.

S.8. Denominator Exclusions: The measure excludes index admissions for patients:

1. With inconsistent or unknown vital status (from claims data) or other unreliable claims data;
2. Discharged against medical advice (AMA);
3. With an admission for spinal cord injury (CCS 227), skull and face fractures (CCS 228), Intracranial Injury (CCS 233), Crushing injury or internal injury (CCS 234), Open wounds of head/neck/trunk (CCS 235), and burns (CCS 240); and
4. With a principal discharge diagnosis within a CCS with fewer than 100 admissions in that division within the measurement year.

De.1. Measure Type: Outcome

S.17. Data Source: Claims, Electronic Health Records, Other

S.20. Level of Analysis: Facility

IF Endorsement Maintenance – Original Endorsement Date: N/A **Most Recent Endorsement Date:** N/A

Preliminary Analysis: New Measure

Criteria 1: Importance to Measure and Report

1a. [Evidence](#)

1a. Evidence. The evidence requirements for a health outcome measure include providing empirical data that demonstrate a relationship between the outcome and at least one healthcare structure, process, intervention, or service; if these data not available, data demonstrating wide variation in performance, assuming the data are from a robust number of providers and results are not subject to systematic bias. For measures derived from patient report, evidence also should demonstrate that the target population values the measured outcome, process, or structure and finds it meaningful.

Evidence Summary

- A [logic model](#) outlines the relationship between various healthcare processes and interventions, improved health status, and a decreased mortality risk.
- The developer provided numerous evidence-based interventions to reduce hospital mortality:
 - Adoption of strategies shown to reduce ventilator-associated pneumonia
 - Delivery of reliable, evidence-based care for acute myocardial infarction
 - Prevention of adverse drug events through medication reconciliation
 - Prevention of central line infections through evidence-based guideline-concordant care

- Prevention of surgical site infections through evidence-based guideline-concordant care
- Use multidisciplinary rounds to improve communication
- Employ Rapid Response Teams to attend to patients at the first sign of clinical decline
- Identify high-risk patients on admission and increase nursing care and physician contact accordingly
- Standardize patient handoffs to avoid miscommunication or gaps in care
- Establish partnerships with community providers to promote evidenced-based practices to reduce hospitalizations before patients become critically ill
- The developer indicates that measure has the potential to capture more admissions than the current condition- and procedure specific mortality measures and provide incentives to transform care and organizational culture.
- The median hospital risk-standardized mortality rate (RSMR) following admission for acute myocardial infarction, for example, has declined from 16.4% in 2006 to 13.1% in 2016. If development and reporting of this HWM measures produces even a tenth as much impact, this would translate into nearly 14,000 deaths averted in a one-year period.

Questions for the Committee:

- *Is there at least one thing that the provider can do to achieve a change in the measure results?*
- *Does this broadly-focused mortality measure provide meaningful information beyond the condition-specific mortality measures?*

Guidance from the Evidence Algorithm

Outcome measure (Box 1) → Relationship between outcome and at least one healthcare action demonstrated by data (Box 2) → Yes → Pass

RATIONALE:

Preliminary rating for evidence: ☒ **Pass** ☐ **No Pass**

1b. [Gap in Care/Opportunity for Improvement](#) and 1b. [Disparities](#)

Maintenance measures – increased emphasis on gap and variation

1b. Performance Gap. The performance gap requirements include demonstrating quality problems and opportunity for improvement.

- Data from the claims-only version of the measure provided as the hybrid measure dataset was limited and not representative of the nation as a whole.
 - The hybrid HWM uses the same concept, cohort and outcome and claims-based risk adjustment variables as the claims-only measure. (It also incorporates clinical data elements from EHR data in the risk-adjustment model).
- From July 2016 to June 2017, there were about 10 million inpatient admissions among Medicare FFS beneficiaries between the ages of 65 and 94, at 4,700 US hospitals. The observed mean 30-day mortality rate was 8.17%.
- In the study cohort, the mean hospital-level risk standardized mortality rate (RSMR) was 6.85%. The range of mortality scores on the HWM measure from 4692 acute-care hospitals was 3.95%-8.70% across more than 4.3 million admissions.
- RSMR Distribution
 - Min, 3.95%

- 1st, 5.57%
 - 5th, 6.07%
 - 10th, 6.32%
 - 25th, 6.66%
 - 50th, 6.93%
 - 75th, 7.09%
 - 90th, 7.26%
 - 95th, 7.40%
 - 99th, 7.75%
 - Max, 8.70%
- The developer also provides evidence from the literature that more than 400,000 patients die each year from preventable harm in hospitals and high and variable mortality rates across hospitals indicate opportunities for improvement.

Disparities

- The developer provides: a) The distribution of patients that were dual-eligible and those with low AHRQ SES (using claims-based measure and 2016-2017 dataset) across hospitals is provided and b) measure score percentiles (bottom vs. top quartile for proportion of patients with low SES and dual-eligibility).

Questions for the Committee:

- Is the data provided for the claims-only measure closely enough related to the hybrid measure to convince of a performance gap for this measure?
- Does the gap in care warrant a national performance measure?
- Do disparities exist that warrant consideration of stratification or adjustment for social factors?

Preliminary rating for opportunity for improvement: ☐ High ☒ Moderate ☐ Low ☐ Insufficient

RATIONALE:

Committee Pre-evaluation Comments:

Criteria 1: Importance to Measure and Report (including 1a, 1b, 1c)

1a. Evidence

Comments:

**acceptable

1b. Performance Gap

Comments:

**variation w/in the very small sample tested (21 sites in 1 healthsystem)

Criteria 2: Scientific Acceptability of Measure Properties

2a. Reliability: [Specifications](#) and [Testing](#)

2b. Validity: [Testing](#); [Exclusions](#); [Risk-Adjustment](#); [Meaningful Differences](#); [Comparability](#); [Missing Data](#)

Reliability

2a1. Specifications requires the measure, as specified, to produce consistent (reliable) and credible (valid) results about the quality of care when implemented. For maintenance measures – no change in emphasis – specifications should be evaluated the same as with new measures.

2a2. Reliability testing demonstrates if the measure data elements are repeatable, producing the same results a high proportion of the time when assessed in the same population in the same time period and/or that the measure score is precise enough to distinguish differences in performance across providers. For maintenance measures – less emphasis if no new testing data provided.

Validity

2b2. Validity testing should demonstrate the measure data elements are correct and/or the measure score correctly reflects the quality of care provided, adequately identifying differences in quality. For maintenance measures – less emphasis if no new testing data provided.

2b2-2b6. Potential threats to validity should be assessed/addressed.

Composite measures only:

2d. Empirical analysis to support composite construction. Empirical analysis should demonstrate that the component measures add value to the composite and that the aggregation and weighting rules are consistent with the quality construct.

Complex measure evaluated by Scientific Methods Panel? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Evaluators: NQF Scientific Methods Panel Subgroup

[Methods Panel Review \(Combined\)](#)

Scientific Methods Panel Votes: Measure passes

- **Reliability:** H-2, M-3, L-0, I-0
- **Validity:** H-0, M-3, L-0, I-1

This measure was reviewed by the Scientific Methods Panel and discussed on their call. A summary of the measure is provided below:

Reliability

- Reliability testing was performed for measure score
- Measure Score
 - To assess reliability of the measure score, the developer conducted a “split sample” analysis, calculating the intra-class correlation coefficient between scores (i.e., RSMRs) generated from two randomly selected subsets from each hospital.
 - The agreement between the two independent assessments of the RSMR for each hospital was 0.8187, and the adjusted ICC (which estimates the ICC if the developer had been able to use one full year of data in each split sample) [3,4], is 0.8377 (Table 1). Both demonstrate high reliability, according to conventional standards.

Validity

- Validity testing was performed for measure score. Both empirical validity testing and a face validity assessment were provided. NQF clarified that for this new measure, face validity alone is sufficient.
- Empirical Measure Score

- To test the validity of the measure score, the developer examined whether better performance on the claims-only measure was related to better performance for other relevant structural and outcome measures.
- The measure score was correlated with the following three measures:
 - Nurse-to-bed ratio
 - Hospital star rating mortality group score
 - Overall hospital star rating
- The developer reports that, for each external measure of quality, the comparison showed a trend toward better performance on the HWM measure with better performance on the comparator measure; detailed results are provided in a series of charts in the testing form.
- Method Panel members expressed some concern that the empirical validity testing appears to have been conducted only on the claims-based measure, and not the 'hybrid' measure.
 - Developer Response, 5/22/2019: It is correct that empiric validity testing was provided based on the results from the claims-only measure. There is no evidence to suggest the results would be different for the hybrid measure, as the hybrid measure is identical to the claims-only measure, and only adds clinical data to augment risk adjustment. In addition, for new measures, NQF only requires face validity which is provided and expanded upon below.
- Method Panel members noted that in surgical divisions, lab values were missing in 15-50% of admissions; some reviewers expressed concern about the impact of these missing lab values on measure scores and the imputation method. The developer clarified that the missing initial lab data are most likely to be elective surgeries where labs were checked 30 days prior to admission so there is less concern regarding abnormal lab values. The developer also clarified that their Technical Expert Panel vetted the validity of this measure.
 - Developer Response, 5/22/2019: For the EHR data elements used in the measure's risk models, we anticipate that there will be some missing data. As noted in the Measure Worksheet, the missing initial lab data was most prevalent in the surgical divisions. These are most likely to be elective surgeries where labs were checked several days prior to admission so there is less concern regarding abnormal lab values. Non-surgical divisions had missing data on less than 10% of cases. Additionally, the TEP considered missing data when assessing the validity of this measure. With regard to the imputation approach used, we used multiple imputation (imposing limits to ensure the imputed values were within clinical possibilities) with 5 copies of data with different imputations based on a multi-normal distribution in the non-surgical divisions. In the surgical divisions, we randomly imputed a value within the normal range for that lab (see Testing Form for normal ranges). As noted above, the normal range imputation was used as surgical patients that are missing initial labs are most likely elective surgical admissions that had the labs collected within 30 days prior to admission. It is less likely that a patient with an extremely abnormal lab value would undergo an elective surgery without having the labs checked again on admission.
- Face Validity
 - A total of 6 TEP members completed the face validity survey.
 - Of the 6 respondents, 5 respondents (83%) indicated that they somewhat, moderately, or strongly agreed, and 1 moderately disagreed that the hybrid measure can be used to distinguish between better and worse quality facilities.

- The measure uses a statistical risk model with 21 factors.
 - Social risk factors, dual-eligible status and AHRQ SES, were tested but not included in the model.

Standing Committee Action Item(s): The Standing Committee can discuss reliability and/or validity or accept the Scientific Methods Panel ratings.

Questions for the Committee regarding reliability:

- Do you have any concerns that the measure can be consistently implemented (i.e., are measure specifications adequate)?
- The Scientific Methods Panel is satisfied with the reliability testing for the measure. Does the Committee think there is a need to discuss and/or vote on reliability?

Questions for the Committee regarding validity:

- Do you have any concerns regarding the validity of the measure (e.g., exclusions, risk-adjustment approach, etc.)?
- The Scientific Methods Panel is satisfied with the validity analyses for the measure. Does the Committee think there is a need to discuss and/or vote on validity?

Preliminary rating for reliability: ☐ High ☒ Moderate ☐ Low ☐ Insufficient

Preliminary rating for validity: ☐ High ☒ Moderate ☐ Low ☐ Insufficient

Methods Panel Evaluation (Combined): Scientific Acceptability

Scientific Acceptability: Preliminary Analysis Form

Measure Number: 3502

Measure Title: Hybrid Hospital-Wide (All-Condition, All-Procedure) Risk-Standardized Mortality Measure

Type of measure:

☐ Process ☐ Process: Appropriate Use ☐ Structure ☐ Efficiency ☐ Cost/Resource Use
☒ Outcome ☐ Outcome: PRO-PM ☐ Outcome: Intermediate Clinical Outcome ☐ Composite

Data Source:

☒ Claims ☐ Electronic Health Data ☒ Electronic Health Records ☐ Management Data
☐ Assessment Data ☐ Paper Medical Records ☐ Instrument-Based Data ☐ Registry Data
☐ Enrollment Data ☒ Other

Level of Analysis:

☐ Clinician: Group/Practice ☐ Clinician: Individual ☒ Facility ☐ Health Plan
☐ Population: Community, County or City ☐ Population: Regional and State
☐ Integrated Delivery System ☐ Other

Measure is:

☒ New ☐ Previously endorsed (NOTE: Empirical validity testing is expected at time of maintenance review; if not possible, justification is required.)

Methods Panel member 1: Note 1—this section is blank. Note 2—this measure (Hybrid; Kaiser Permanente only) has a “sister” measure (claims only; general Medicare FFS-based). The developer lists several differences (e.g., risk adjustment methodology and RFs; patient age group) between these measures in section De.3. The intent is to harmonize the two measures prior to implementation.

RELIABILITY: SPECIFICATIONS

1. **Are submitted specifications precise, unambiguous, and complete so that they can be consistently implemented?** ☒ Yes ☐ No

Submission document: “MIF_xxxx” document, items S.1-S.22

NOTE: NQF staff will conduct a separate, more technical, check of eCQM specifications, value sets, logic, and feasibility, so no need to consider these in your evaluation.

2. **Briefly summarize any concerns about the measure specifications.**

Methods Panel member 2: The MIF form was not available, so I can't be sure of this, but there do not seem to be any concerns.

Methods Panel member 1: The measure is restricted to hospitals that have at least 100 “admissions in that division”. This will restrict reportability of the measure and may exclude smaller and rural hospitals. If this measure is used in value-based purchasing, some recognition of benefits achieved by hospitals for which the measure can be computed should be awarded to those hospitals for which the measure cannot be computed.

Developer Response, 5/22/2019: One of the main goals of the HWM measure is to provide hospital quality information for smaller, low volume hospitals. In order to receive an overall risk-standardized mortality rate, the hospital must have at least 25 cases overall. We exclude admissions within low volume CCSs, defined as less than or equal to 100 admissions within any division for all hospitals, for more stable, precise division-level risk models. This exclusion is on the CCS level (using total count from all hospitals), not on the individual hospital level.

RELIABILITY: TESTING

Submission document: “MIF_xxxx” document for specifications, testing attachment questions 1.1-1.4 and section 2a2

3. **Reliability testing level** ☒ Measure score ☐ Data element ☐ Neither
4. **Reliability testing was conducted with the data source and level of analysis indicated for this measure**
☒ Yes ☐ No
5. If score-level and/or data element reliability testing was NOT conducted or if the methods used were NOT appropriate, was **empirical VALIDITY testing of patient-level data** conducted?
☐ Yes ☐ No (X) NA—reliability testing was conducted at both the measure score and data element levels
6. **Assess the method(s) used for reliability testing**

Submission document: Testing attachment, section 2a2.2

Methods Panel member 2: A split sample approach was used in which two independent samples were drawn and each used to create a RSMR for each hospital, which were then compared with an ICC.

Methods Panel member 1: For the measure score, a split-half analysis (intra class correlation—ICC) was computed. There was no information about the data element level reliability—although that box was checked on Section 2a2.1. The data analyzed were collected over 15 months, while the reporting timeline for the measure appears to be for a 12-month period.

Methods Panel member 3: See below

Methods Panel member 4: Calculated a ICC using a split-sample method.

Developer Response, 5/22/2019: To reliably calculate ICC for the split-sample and using ICD-10 data only, we used 15 months of data. The ICC was then adjusted so that the results would project what the result would have looked like with 24 months of data. The measure is intended to be eventually publicly reported using a 12-month period, as more data would be available in the national sample.

7. **Assess the results of reliability testing**

Submission document: Testing attachment, section 2a2.3

Methods Panel member 2: The overall split-sample reliability score (0.7748) indicates “substantial” agreement across the split sample, indicating that the measure score results are a measure of true provider variation rather than random error.

Measure score

Methods Panel member 3: Reliability was assessed using split-sample reliability testing. Adjusted ICC – 0.77, which is consistent with substantial reliability.

Methods Panel member 1: Measure score split-half reliability = 0.6826 was substantial. The “adjusted ICC” value was higher, but methodology for how value was adjusted was not specified.

There were no results posted for the data elements.

Developer Response, 5/22/2019: To calculate ICC, admissions were randomly and evenly split into the two split samples within each individual hospital (15 months of combined data). For each sample, we fit a hierarchical generalized linear model for each service-line division and then aggregate the results into an overall RSMR. That is, each hospital will have a RSMR in each split sample. The ICC evaluates the agreement between the RSMR calculated in the two randomly split samples. The adjusted ICC adjusts the time window from 15 months to 24 months based on the ‘Spearman Brown prophecy formula’, which suggests a way to estimate the reliability of the measure if the whole cohort were used, based on an estimate from half the cohort. Specifically, the formula says that if the number of items in a test increases by a factor of N, then the new reliability P' can be estimated from the original reliability P using: $\rho' = N \cdot \rho / (1 + (N-1) \cdot \rho)$ where $N=24/15=8/5$

8. Was the method described and appropriate for assessing the proportion of variability due to real differences among measured entities? NOTE: If multiple methods used, at least one must be appropriate.

Submission document: Testing attachment, section 2a2.2

☒ **Yes**

☐ **No**

☐ **Not applicable** (score-level testing was not performed)

9. Was the method described and appropriate for assessing the reliability of ALL critical data elements?

Submission document: Testing attachment, section 2a2.2

☐ **Yes**

☐ **No**

☒ **Not applicable** (data element testing was not performed)

10. **OVERALL RATING OF RELIABILITY** (taking into account precision of specifications and all testing results):

☒ **High** (NOTE: Can be HIGH only if score-level testing has been conducted)

☒ **Moderate** (NOTE: Moderate is the highest eligible rating if score-level testing has not been conducted)

☐ **Low** (NOTE: Should rate LOW if you believe specifications are NOT precise, unambiguous, and complete or if testing methods/results are not adequate)

☐ **Insufficient** (NOTE: Should rate INSUFFICIENT if you believe you do not have the information you need to make a rating decision)

11. **Briefly explain rationale for the rating of OVERALL RATING OF RELIABILITY and any concerns you may have with the approach to demonstrating reliability.**

Methods Panel member 2: An appropriate method was used, with positive empirical results. Note that the testing form indicates that reliability testing was conducted for critical data elements used in the measure, but the results of this analysis are not shown.

Methods Panel member 1: I only award "High" if both measure score and data element reliability are demonstrated with strong results.

Methods Panel member 3: Reliability was assessed using split-sample reliability testing. Adjusted ICC – 0.77, which is consistent with substantial reliability.

Methods Panel member 5: a. ICC, split sample, moderate

Developer Response, 5/22/2019: We did not provide data element reliability testing since we provided measure score reliability testing. Please note that the data element validity and feasibility for the CCDE risk variables used were also tested and presented in the NQF-endorsed hybrid hospital-wide readmission measure (NQF #2879e).

VALIDITY: ASSESSMENT OF THREATS TO VALIDITY

12. **Please describe any concerns you have with measure exclusions.**

Submission document: Testing attachment, section 2b2.

Methods Panel member 2: None.

Methods Panel member 4: No concerns.

Methods Panel member 1: See previous comment under measure description.

Methods Panel member 3: No concerns. Cases were excluded in order to only include CCS codes with >100 observations in order for risk adj model to converge. Low-volume CCS categories were not combined into single category due to heterogeneity of this combined group.

Methods Panel member 5: N/A

13. **Please describe any concerns you have regarding the ability to identify meaningful differences in performance.**

Submission document: Testing attachment, section 2b4.

Methods Panel member 2: None.

Methods Panel member 1: Between hospital meaningful differences were not specifically described; no results presented.

Methods Panel member 3: None. The RSMR for the claims-only measure was 6.3% for 10th percentile and 7.26% for 90th percentile, indicating a meaningful quality gap in the national data. It is possible that the additional variables included in the hybrid model will narrow this gap somewhat by providing better adjustment for case mix. However, it is unlikely that the inclusion of these variables will reduce this gap in performance enough to eliminate the ability to identify meaningful differences in performance.

Methods Panel member 4: Among the 21 hospitals, did see some limited variation in performance.

Methods Panel member 5: Estimate of national variation only for claims measure and not for e-measure (for which it wasn't assessed); does appear to be performance variation

Developer Response, 5/22/2019: Performance range for hybrid HWM measure was presented in the testing form (The RSMR for the hybrid HWM measure ranged from 3.98% to 5.43%, with a median RSMR of 4.65%). The performance range for the hybrid HWM measure is more narrow than the claims-only measure (which had a RSMR range of 3.95%-8.70%) due in part to the smaller sample (hybrid results are based on the 21 hospitals for which we had available test data), of hospitals in a single health system.

Therefore, the performance range for the hybrid measure is based on a limited dataset. Information on variation was supplemented from the claims-only measure, as an example of how we would expect the distribution of the hybrid RSMR to look, given a national sample of hospitals.

14. Please describe any concerns you have regarding comparability of results if multiple data sources or methods are specified.

Submission document: Testing attachment, section 2b5.

Methods Panel member 1: Data were from a single data source (KP hospitals)

Methods Panel member 5: None

Methods Panel member 4: Not applicable.

Developer Response, 5/22/2019: We agree that ideally a nationally representative sample would be available for testing, however due to the use of EHR data, this is not feasible for development and testing. These limitations are common when testing measures that use EHR data. However, in this case we have augmented the information available about the measure by fully testing a claims-only version which is nearly identical to this hybrid versions. Once implemented, additional testing would be done when the measure returned to NQF for maintenance of endorsement.

15. Please describe any concerns you have regarding missing data.

Submission document: Testing attachment, section 2b6.

Methods Panel member 1: No

Methods Panel member 3: Approach to missing data. is reasonable.

Non-surgical divisions had missing values on <10% cases, whereas for surgical divisions, lab values were missing for 15-50% of cases. Used multiple imputation for non-surgical divisions. MD imputed normal values for surgical cohorts, based on assumption that surgical patients missing lab values would have had normal values on labs prior to admission. This is a reasonable assumption. In fact, many low-risk surgical patients would not have any labs drawn prior to surgery.

Methods Panel member 5: None

Methods Panel member 4: In surgical divisions, lab values were missing in 15-50% of admissions

16. Risk Adjustment

16a. Risk-adjustment method ☐ None ☒ Statistical model ☐ Stratification

16b. If not risk-adjusted, is this supported by either a conceptual rationale or empirical analyses?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ Not applicable

16c. Social risk adjustment:

16c.1 Are social risk factors included in risk model? ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Not applicable

16c.2 Conceptual rationale for social risk factors included? ☒ Yes ☐ No

16c.3 Is there a conceptual relationship between potential social risk factor variables and the measure focus? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Methods Panel member 3: Correlation coefficient for hospital RSMR with and without inclusion of patient-level SES (duals) was 0.999 indicating little effect of adjusting for patient SES on overall hospital performance. This analysis was based on from claims-based measure application. The rationale for the decision to base the SES analysis on the national claims database is that the results from analysis of social risk factors based on limited data set used to create hybrid measure is non-representative. This is a reasonable rationale.

Developer Response, 5/22/2019: Social risk factors, dual-eligible status and AHRQ SES were tested as potential risk factors, but ultimately not included in the model. The full rationale for excluding social risk factors is presented for the claims-only measure. We did not perform additional testing for this

hybrid measure because we did not have a generalizable (with respect to SRFs) or nationally representative sample of hospitals.

16d. Risk adjustment summary:

16d.1 All of the risk-adjustment variables present at the start of care? ☒ Yes ☐ No

16d.2 If factors not present at the start of care, do you agree with the rationale provided for inclusion?
☐ Yes ☐ No (X) NA—21 risk factors in model

16d.3 Is the risk adjustment approach appropriately developed and assessed? ☒ Yes ☒ No

16d.4 Do analyses indicate acceptable results (e.g., acceptable discrimination and calibration)
☒ Yes ☐ No

16d.5. Appropriate risk-adjustment strategy included in the measure? ☒ Yes ☐ No

16e. Assess the risk-adjustment approach

Methods Panel member 2: Overall, very thoughtful and through.

Methods Panel member 1: Prediction model for risk adjustment seem appropriate, and with acceptable results.

Methods Panel member 3: A separate risk adjustment model was specified for each of the 15 mutually exclusive surgical and medical diagnostic groups using hierarchical logistic regression modelling. Each model adjusts for 21 risk factors based on the CMS HCC and principal discharge diagnoses based on AHRQ CCS. Each model also included information on vital signs (e.g. heart rate) on admission and select blood test results (creatinine). Provider performance is quantified using the PE ratio. Hospitals were specified as a random effect. The PE ratio was estimated for each diagnostic group separately, and these PE ratios were then pooled for each hospital using an inverse variance-weighted geometric mean to create a hospital-wide composite PE ratio.

Model testing was performed using the same data used to develop the model. The MD justified not splitting the data set into training and validation data sets due to small number of hospitals and cases. This is a very reasonable justification since some of the diagnostic groups had fewer than 5,000 cases. Model discrimination and calibration was excellent in the overall data set for each of the component risk adj models, ranging between 0.82 to 0.96. Calibration graphs based on overall data set were mixed, with some being very good (infection) and others suggesting less than optimal calibration. (e.g. orthopedic).

Methods Panel member 5: Appropriate only for claims measure and not for e-measure (for which it wasn't assessed)

Methods Panel member 4: Risk adjustment model with 21 risk factors; good c-stat.

VALIDITY: TESTING

17. **Validity testing level:** ☒ Measure score ☐ Data element ☐ Both

18. **Method of establishing validity of the measure score:**

☒ Face validity

☒ Empirical validity testing of the measure score

☐ N/A (score-level testing not conducted)

19. **Assess the method(s) for establishing validity**

Submission document: Testing attachment, section 2b2.2

Methods Panel member 2: Face validity was assessed by surveying members of a Technical Experts Panel (TEP).

Empiric Validity Testing involved exploring the relationship of the HWM claims-only measure scores with each of the three external measures of hospital quality identified by the TEP: nurse-to-bed ratio, mortality

group score of Star Rating, and Overall Star Rating. In addition, the developers identified “better” and “worse” outliers based on the 95% confidence interval.

Methods Panel member 1: The Developer conducted a number of very good predictive validity tests, as well as a face validity test using a TEP.

Methods Panel member 3: See below

Methods Panel member 4: Did not conduct empirical validity on the hybrid measure.

Did use a TEP for face validity and inquired about the ability of the measure to distinguish quality.

20. Assess the results(s) for establishing validity

Submission document: Testing attachment, section 2b2.3

Methods Panel member 2: The TEP results indicated relatively high agreement (83%) regarding the face-validity of the claims-only HWM measure.

For each external measure of quality, the comparison showed a trend toward better performance on the HWM measure with better performance on the comparator measure. For instance, In the outlier analysis that compares RSMR to nurse-to-bed ratio, there are 19 “better than national average” outliers in the third quartile and 5 “worse” outliers.

Methods Panel member 1: Results from predictive validity and face validity tests were very positive and produced consistent results.

Methods Panel member 3: see below

Methods Panel member 4: TEP (5/6) agreed that measure could be used for assessing quality.

Developer Response, 5/22/2019: We would like to clarify that face validity was assessed by the TEP for the hybrid HWM measure. The TEP results indicated relatively high agreement (83%) regarding the face-validity of the hybrid HWM measure. The following question was posed to the TEP: “The risk-standardized mortality rates obtained from the hybrid hospital-wide mortality measure as specified can be used to distinguish between better and worse quality facilities.”

21. Was the method described and appropriate for assessing conceptually and theoretically sound hypothesized relationships?

Submission document: Testing attachment, section 2b1.

☒ **Yes**

☐ **No**

☐ **Not applicable** (score-level testing was not performed)

22. Was the method described and appropriate for assessing the accuracy of ALL critical data elements?

NOTE that data element validation from the literature is acceptable.

Submission document: Testing attachment, section 2b1.

☒ **Yes**

☒ **No**

☒ **Not applicable** (data element testing was not performed)

23. OVERALL RATING OF VALIDITY taking into account the results and scope of all testing and analysis of potential threats.

☒ **High** (NOTE: Can be HIGH only if score-level testing has been conducted)

☒ **Moderate** (NOTE: Moderate is the highest eligible rating if score-level testing has NOT been conducted)

- ☐ **Low** (NOTE: Should rate LOW if you believe that there are threats to validity and/or relevant threats to validity were not assessed OR if testing methods/results are not adequate)
- ☒ **Insufficient** (NOTE: For instrument-based measures and some composite measures, testing at both the score level and the data element level is required; if not conducted, should rate as INSUFFICIENT.)

24. Briefly explain rationale for rating of OVERALL RATING OF VALIDITY and any concerns you may have with the developers' approach to demonstrating validity.

Methods Panel member 2: Appropriate methods were used to assess both face validity and to conduct empirical testing, and the results were strong.

Methods Panel member 1: I only award "High" if both measure score and data element validity are demonstrated with strong results.

Methods Panel member 3: Face validity was assessed by a TEP and, based on 6 of 8 TEP members, showed that 83% agreed with "The risk-standardized hospital mortality rates obtained from the claims-only HWM measure, as specified, can be used to distinguish between better and worse quality facilities." It does not appear that the TEP evaluated the hybrid measure.

Empiric validity was tested by comparing performance on HWM measure to 3 external measures of hospital quality: nurse-to-bed ratio, mortality group score of Star Rating, and Overall Star Rating. Results show better performance on HWM measure is associated with better performance on all 3 of the comparator measures. As acknowledged by MD, this type of analysis is always limited by the fact that there is no gold standard for quality. This analysis is from the claims-based measure application. The rationale for the decision to base this evaluation on the national claims database is that the results from analysis of the empiric validity testing based on limited data set used to create hybrid measure is non-representative. This is a reasonable rationale.

Predictive validity was demonstrated by the acceptable performance of the risk adjustment model. Model testing was performed using the same data used to develop the model. The MD justified not splitting the data set into training and validation data sets due to small number of hospitals and cases. This is a very reasonable justification since some of the diagnostic groups had fewer than 5000 cases. Model discrimination and calibration was excellent in the overall data set for each of the component risk adjustment models, ranging between 0.82 to 0.96. Calibration graphs based on overall data set were mixed, with some being very good (infection) and others suggesting less than optimal calibration. (e.g. orthopedic).

Methods Panel member 5: Only assessed validity for claims data and not e-measure, so need to modify submission to remove e-measure as a data source

Otherwise, convened a TEP and compared against other measures; however, then it is just the claims measure 3504, so this one doesn't seem ready as a hybrid.

Methods Panel member 4: I have concerns about the impact of the missing lab values on hospital scores.

Developer Response, 5/22/2019: We would like to clarify that face validity was assessed by the TEP for the hybrid HWM measure. The TEP results indicated relatively high agreement (83%) regarding the face-validity of the hybrid HWM measure.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

25. If you have listed any concerns in this form, do you believe these concerns warrant further discussion by the multi-stakeholder Standing Committee? If so, please list those concerns below.

Methods Panel member 1: Good job by developer.

Committee Pre-evaluation Comments:

Criteria 2: Scientific Acceptability of Measure Properties (including all 2a, 2b, and 2c)

2a1. Reliability – Specifications

Comments:

****robust**

2a2. Reliability – Testing

Comments:

****No concerns**

2b1. Validity – Testing

Comments:

****No concerns**

2b4-7. Threats to Validity

2b4. Meaningful Differences

Comments:

****not concerned; keep in mind this is just 1 healthsystem's data**

2b2-3. Other Threats to Validity

2b2. Exclusions

2b3. Risk Adjustment

Comments:

****need to have a much larger sample size and representation from various characteristics first**

Criterion 3. [Feasibility](#)

Maintenance measures – no change in emphasis – implementation issues may be more prominent

3. Feasibility is the extent to which the specifications including measure logic, require data that are readily available or could be captured without undue burden and can be implemented for performance measurement.

- All data elements are in defined fields in a combination of electronic sources (claims, EHR).
- Compared to measure 3504 the claims-only hospital-wide mortality measure, this measure incorporates patient-level clinical data from the EHR into the risk adjustment model.
 - The hybrid measure adds 10 clinical risk variables, derived from a set of core clinical data elements (CCDE) extracted from the EHR.
- Electronic clinical data will be collected from hospitals using MAT output and value sets to inform data queries and electronic reporting requirements.
 - Developers provided a feasibility scorecard for the electronic data elements.
 - Elements were tested in one integrated healthcare delivery system.
 - Analysis showed elements were readily available, accurate, standardized.

Questions for the Committee:

- Are the required data elements routinely generated and used during care delivery?
- Is the data collection strategy, especially for the electronic clinical data components, ready to be put into operational use?

- Though the measure is not considered an eMeasure, do feasibility Score Card results demonstrate acceptable feasibility for the electronic components?

Preliminary rating for feasibility: ☐ High ☒ Moderate ☐ Low ☐ Insufficient

RATIONALE:

Committee Pre-evaluation Comments:

Criteria 3: Feasibility

3. Feasibility

Comments:

**Hybrid is 100% dependent upon technology/HER

**

Criterion 4: [Usability and Use](#)

Maintenance measures – increased emphasis – much greater focus on measure use and usefulness, including both impact/improvement and unintended consequences

4a. Use (4a1. Accountability and Transparency; 4a2. Feedback on measure)

4a. Use evaluate the extent to which audiences (e.g., consumers, purchasers, providers, policymakers) use or could use performance results for both accountability and performance improvement activities.

4a.1. Accountability and Transparency. Performance results are used in at least one accountability application within three years after initial endorsement and are publicly reported within six years after initial endorsement (or the data on performance results are available). If not in use at the time of initial endorsement, then a credible plan for implementation within the specified timeframes is provided.

Current uses of the measure

Publicly reported? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Current use in an accountability program? ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ UNCLEAR

OR

Planned use in an accountability program? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Accountability program details

- Planned use in the Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting Program.
 - In the IPPS proposed rule, CMS signaled the eventual possibility of including this measure (and/or the related claims only measure) within the Inpatient Quality Reporting (IQR) program.

4a.2. Feedback on the measure by those being measured or others. Three criteria demonstrate feedback: 1) those being measured have been given performance results or data, as well as assistance with interpreting the measure results and data; 2) those being measured and other users have been given an opportunity to provide feedback on the measure performance or implementation; 3) this feedback has been considered when changes are incorporated into the measure

Feedback on the measure by those being measured or others

- The measure is not yet implemented, but primary goal of the measure is to provide information necessary to implement focused quality improvement efforts.

- Developer notes plan to examine trends in improvements by comparing RSMRs over time.

Additional Feedback:

- N/A

Questions for the Committee:

- Does the developer provide enough information regarding the potential use of this measure as well as how users can use results and provide feedback?
- Can performance results be used to further the goal of high-quality, efficient healthcare?
- How has the measure been vetted in real-world settings by those being measured or others?

Preliminary rating for Use: ☒ **Pass** ☐ **No Pass**

RATIONALE: Measure is not in use, but the developer provides a potential plan for use in the Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting Program.

4b. Usability (4a1. Improvement; 4a2. Benefits of measure)

4b. Usability evaluate the extent to which audiences (e.g., consumers, purchasers, providers, policymakers) use or could use performance results for both accountability and performance improvement activities.

4b.1 Improvement. Progress toward achieving the goal of high-quality, efficient healthcare for individuals or populations is demonstrated.

Improvement results

- No addition information provided. (Performance variation provided in Opportunity for Improvement section, based on one year of data).

4b2. Benefits vs. harms. Benefits of the performance measure in facilitating progress toward achieving high-quality, efficient healthcare for individuals or populations outweigh evidence of unintended negative consequences to individuals or populations (if such evidence exists).

Unexpected findings (positive or negative) during implementation

- Measure is not yet implemented.

Potential harms

- Potential harms not identified.

Additional Feedback:

- N/A

Questions for the Committee:

- Is it clear that facilities can use measure results to improve performance?
- Would there be potential harms from implementing this measure?
- Do the benefits of the measure outweigh any potential unintended consequences?

Preliminary rating for Usability and use: ☐ **High** ☒ **Moderate** ☐ **Low** ☐ **Insufficient**

RATIONALE:

Committee Pre-evaluation Comments:

Criteria 4: Usability and Use

4a1. Use - Accountability and Transparency

Comments:

******Not currently in use; as we see in other measures "may be on deck" but who know when

4b1. Usability – Improvement

Comments:

******need to see the incremental benefit/robustness of models once more sites w/ EHR data are included.
How much incremental gain over claims-only? My sense is a CMS preference for EHR data as that may be less burdensome on CMS

Criterion 5: Related and Competing Measures

Related or competing measures

Related measures:

- Hospital-Wide All-Cause Risk-Standardized Readmission Measure (NQF #1789)
- Hospital-level risk-standardized complication rate (RSCR) following elective primary total hip arthroplasty (THA) and/or total knee arthroplasty (TKA) (NQF #1550)
- Hospital 30-day, all-cause, risk-standardized mortality rate (RSMR) following pneumonia hospitalization (NQF #0468)
- Hospital 30-Day, all-cause, risk-standardized mortality rate (RSMR) following chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) hospitalization (NQF #1893)
- Hospital 30-Day, all-cause, risk-standardized mortality rate (RSMR) following coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) Surgery (NQF #2558)
- Hospital 30-day, all-cause, risk-standardized mortality rate (RSMR) following acute myocardial infarction (AMI) hospitalization (NQF #0230)
- Hospital 30-day, all-cause, risk-standardized mortality rate (RSMR) following heart failure (HF) hospitalization (NQF #0229)
- Hospital 30-day, all-cause, risk-standardized mortality rate (RSMR) following acute ischemic stroke hospitalization
- Death Rate in Low Mortality Diagnosis Related Groups (PSI-02) (NQF #0347)
- AHRQ's Mortality for Select Conditions (IQI-90) (NQF #0530)

Harmonization

- The developer states the measures are harmonized and complimentary to one another.
- This measure is intended to complement the existing Hospital-Wide All-Cause Risk-Standardized Readmission Measure (NQF #1789) to allow assessment of trends in hospital performance for both readmission and mortality outcomes.
 - The measure differs from 1789 in that it a) includes patients with a principal discharge diagnosis of cancer and b) The mortality measure divides patients into 15 categories, while the readmission measure uses six.
- Additional differences between the measure and 0357 and 0530 are noted.
- The Committee will discussion if the related measures are aligned to the extent possible.

Committee Pre-evaluation Comments: Criterion 5:

Related and Competing Measures

5. *Related and Competing*

Comments:

******the existing claims-based measure

Public and Member Comments

Comments and Member Support/Non-Support Submitted as of: 6/5/2019

- **No NQF Members have submitted support/non-support choices as of this date.**

Brief Measure Information

NQF #: 3502

Corresponding Measures:

De.2. Measure Title: Hybrid Hospital-Wide (All-Condition, All-Procedure) Risk-Standardized Mortality Measure

Co.1.1. Measure Steward: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)

De.3. Brief Description of Measure: The measure estimates a hospital-level 30-day risk-standardized mortality rate (RSMR), defined as death from any cause within 30 days after the index admission date for patients who are between the ages of 50 and 94.

Please note that in parallel with the hybrid HWM measure, we are submitting a claims-only HWM measure. Note that ultimately the claims and hybrid measures will be harmonized and use the same exact cohort specifications. The intent is that prior to implementation, the two measures will be exactly the same, with the exception of the additional risk adjustment added by the CCDE in the hybrid measure. This is analogous to the currently endorsed and implemented hybrid hospital-wide readmissions measure (NQF 1789 and NQF 2879e).

Because of the homology between the claims and hybrid HWM measures, there is no reason to suspect that the results of analyses done for the claims-only measure would differ in any significant way from results of analyses for a nationally representative hybrid measure.

Below we highlight the differences between the two measures, including specifications, data used, and testing which reflect limitations of data availability, as well as actual intended differences in the measure (risk adjustment).

Differences in the measure, data, and testing that reflect limitations in data availability

1. Dataset used for development, some testing (see below for differences), and measure results:
 - a. The claims-only measure uses nation-wide Medicare FFS claims and the enrollment database.
 - b. The hybrid measure uses an electronic health record (EHR) database from 21 hospitals in the Kaiser Permanente network which includes inpatient claims data information.
2. Age of patients in cohort:
 - a. The claims-only measure includes Medicare FFS patients, age 65-94.
 - b. The hybrid measure includes all patients age 50-94 (see later discussion for justification)
3. External empiric validity testing
 - a. Not possible for the hybrid measure, due to limited data availability. We provide results from the claims-only measure within the hybrid testing form.
4. Socioeconomic risk factor analyses
 - a. Not possible for the hybrid measure, due to limited data availability. We provide results from the claims-only measure within the hybrid testing form.
5. Exclusion analyses
 - a. To be representative of what we expect the impact would be of the measures' exclusions in a nation-wide sample, we provide the results from the claims-only measure.
6. Meaningful differences
 - a. To be representative of what we expect the range of performance would be in a nation-wide sample, we provide the distribution results from the claims-only measure.

Difference between the two measures when fully harmonized, prior to implementation:

1. Risk adjustment:
 - a. The claims-only measure uses administrative claims data only for risk adjustment
 - b. The hybrid measure adds 10 clinical risk variables, derived from a set of core clinical data elements (CCDE) extracted from the EHR.

1b.1. Developer Rationale: The goal of this measure is to improve patient outcomes by providing patients, physicians, hospitals, and policy makers with information about hospital-level, risk-standardized mortality rates following hospitalization for a range of medical conditions and surgical procedures. Measurement of patient outcomes allows for a broad view of quality of care that encompasses more than what can be captured by individual process-of-care measures. Complex and critical aspects of care, such as communication between providers, prevention of and response to complications, patient safety, and coordinated transitions to the outpatient environment, all contribute to patient outcomes but are difficult to measure by individual process measures. The goal of outcomes measurement is to risk-adjust for patients' conditions at the time of hospital admission and then evaluate patient outcomes. This measure was developed to identify institutions whose performance is better or worse than would be expected based on their patient case mix, and therefore promote hospital quality improvement and better inform consumers about care quality. The more granular division-level results can support the targeting of service-line quality improvement.

Mortality is a significant outcome that is meaningful to patients and providers. For the majority of Medicare beneficiaries admitted to acute care hospitals in the US, the goal is to avoid short-term mortality. According to recent internal analyses, from July 2016 to June 2017, there were about 10 million inpatient admissions among Medicare FFS beneficiaries between the ages of 65 and 94, at 4,700 US hospitals. The observed mean 30-day mortality rate was 8.17%. The range of mortality scores on the HWM measure from 4692 acute-care hospitals was 3.95%-8.70% across more than 4.3 million admissions.

This measure incorporates both data from claims as well as clinical data elements pulled from the EHR in risk-adjustment of the mortality model. Some benefits of including the clinical data elements are:

1. Inclusion of patient-level clinical data related to severity of illness is responsive to providers who continue to express preference for using patient-level clinical data, and provides an opportunity to incorporate clinical data into outcome measures.
2. Hospitals will increasingly use EHR data to assess severity of illness and patients' risk of poor outcomes. This provides an opportunity to align the measure with clinical decision support systems that many providers utilize to alert care teams about patients at increased risk of poor outcomes in real time during the inpatient stay.
3. Collecting a simple core set of clinical data elements that perform well as risk-adjustment variables (for illness severity) across conditions can greatly reduce the cost and effort of future measure development, improve harmonization, and create opportunity for longitudinal assessment of patient status and quality of care across settings.
4. These core clinical data elements will provide measure developers with a standard set of reliable data that can be used as a starting place when building risk-adjustment models for quality measures using clinical data.

S.4. Numerator Statement: The outcome for this measure is 30-day, all-cause mortality. Mortality is defined as death from any cause, either during or after admission, within 30 days of the index admission date.

S.6. Denominator Statement: The cohort includes inpatient admissions for a wide variety of conditions for patients aged between 50 and 94 years old who were discharged from short-term acute care hospitals. If a patient has more than one admission during the measurement year, one admission is randomly selected for inclusion in the measure. Additional details are provided in S.7 Denominator Details. The age range for this measure differs from that of the claims-only measure due to the limited size of the dataset used for testing. The intent is to harmonize the age range of the hybrid measure with the age range of the claims-only measure, so that both will include admissions for patients age 65-94.

S.8. Denominator Exclusions: The measure excludes index admissions for patients:

1. With inconsistent or unknown vital status (from claims data) or other unreliable claims data;
2. Discharged against medical advice (AMA);
3. With an admission for spinal cord injury (CCS 227), skull and face fractures (CCS 228), Intracranial Injury (CCS 233), Crushing injury or internal injury (CCS 234), Open wounds of head/neck/trunk (CCS 235), and burns (CCS 240); and
4. With a principal discharge diagnosis within a CCS with fewer than 100 admissions in that division within the measurement year.

De.1. Measure Type: Outcome

S.17. Data Source: Claims, Electronic Health Records, Other

S.20. Level of Analysis: Facility

IF Endorsement Maintenance – Original Endorsement Date: Most Recent Endorsement Date:

IF this measure is included in a composite, NQF Composite#/title:

IF this measure is paired/grouped, NQF#/title:

De.4. IF PAIRED/GROUPED, what is the reason this measure must be reported with other measures to appropriately interpret results?

1. Evidence and Performance Gap – Importance to Measure and Report

Extent to which the specific measure focus is evidence-based, important to making significant gains in healthcare quality, and improving health outcomes for a specific high-priority (high-impact) aspect of healthcare where there is variation in or overall less-than-optimal performance. ***Measures must be judged to meet all sub criteria to pass this criterion and be evaluated against the remaining criteria.***

1a. Evidence to Support the Measure Focus – See attached Evidence Submission Form

[Del18b2HOP5HWMHybridTestingForm01242019.docx](#), [Del19b2HOP5HWMHybridEvidenceForm022819-636893846257369780.docx](#)

1a.1 For Maintenance of Endorsement: Is there new evidence about the measure since the last update/submission?

Do not remove any existing information. If there have been any changes to evidence, the Committee will consider the new evidence. Please use the most current version of the evidence attachment (v7.1). Please use red font to indicate updated evidence.

1a. Evidence (subcriterion 1a)

NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM—Evidence (subcriterion 1a)

Measure Number (if previously endorsed): N/A

Measure Title: Hybrid Hospital-Wide (All-Condition, All-Procedure) Risk-Standardized Mortality Measure

IF the measure is a component in a composite performance measure, provide the title of the Composite Measure here: N/A

Date of Submission: N/A

Instructions

- Complete 1a.1 and 1a.2 for all measures. If instrument-based measure, complete 1a.3.

- Complete EITHER 1a.2, 1a.3 or 1a.4 as applicable for the type of measure and evidence.
- For composite performance measures:
 - A separate evidence form is required for each component measure unless several components were studied together.
 - If a component measure is submitted as an individual performance measure, attach the evidence form to the individual measure submission.
- All information needed to demonstrate meeting the evidence subcriterion (1a) must be in this form. An appendix of *supplemental* materials may be submitted, but there is no guarantee it will be reviewed.
- If you are unable to check a box, please highlight or shade the box for your response.
- Contact NQF staff regarding questions. Check for resources at [Submitting Standards webpage](#).

Note: The information provided in this form is intended to aid the Standing Committee and other stakeholders in understanding to what degree the evidence for this measure meets NQF's evaluation criteria.

1a. Evidence to Support the Measure Focus

The measure focus is evidence-based, demonstrated as follows:

- **Outcome:** ³ Empirical data demonstrate a relationship between the outcome and at least one healthcare structure, process, intervention, or service. If not available, wide variation in performance can be used as evidence, assuming the data are from a robust number of providers and results are not subject to systematic bias.
- **Intermediate clinical outcome:** a systematic assessment and grading of the quantity, quality, and consistency of the body of evidence ⁴ that the measured intermediate clinical outcome leads to a desired health outcome.
- **Process:** ⁵ a systematic assessment and grading of the quantity, quality, and consistency of the body of evidence ⁴ that the measured process leads to a desired health outcome.
- **Structure:** a systematic assessment and grading of the quantity, quality, and consistency of the body of evidence ⁴ that the measured structure leads to a desired health outcome.
- **Efficiency:** ⁶ evidence not required for the resource use component.
- For measures derived from patient reports, evidence should demonstrate that the target population values the measured outcome, process, or structure and finds it meaningful.
- **Process measures incorporating Appropriate Use Criteria:** See NQF's guidance for evidence for measures, in general; guidance for measures specifically based on clinical practice guidelines apply as well.

Notes

3. Generally, rare event outcomes do not provide adequate information for improvement or discrimination; however, serious reportable events that are compared to zero are appropriate outcomes for public reporting and quality improvement.
4. The preferred systems for grading the evidence are the Grading of Recommendations, Assessment, Development and Evaluation ([GRADE guidelines](#)) and/or modified GRADE.
5. Clinical care processes typically include multiple steps: assess → identify problem/potential problem → choose/plan intervention (with patient input) → provide intervention → evaluate impact on health status. If the measure focus is one step in such a multistep process, the step with the strongest evidence for the link to the desired outcome should be selected as the focus of measurement. Note: A measure focused only on collecting PROM data is not a PRO-PM.
6. Measures of efficiency combine the concepts of resource use and quality (see NQF's [Measurement Framework: Evaluating Efficiency Across Episodes of Care](#); [AQA Principles of Efficiency Measures](#)).

1a.1. This is a measure of: (should be consistent with type of measure entered in De.1)

Outcome

☒ Outcome: [Mortality](#)

☐ Patient-reported outcome (PRO): [Click here to name the PRO](#)

PROs include HRQoL/functional status, symptom/symptom burden, experience with care, health-related behaviors. (A PRO-based performance measure is not a survey instrument. Data may be collected using a survey instrument to construct a PRO measure.)

☐ Intermediate clinical outcome (e.g., lab value): [Click here to name the intermediate outcome](#)

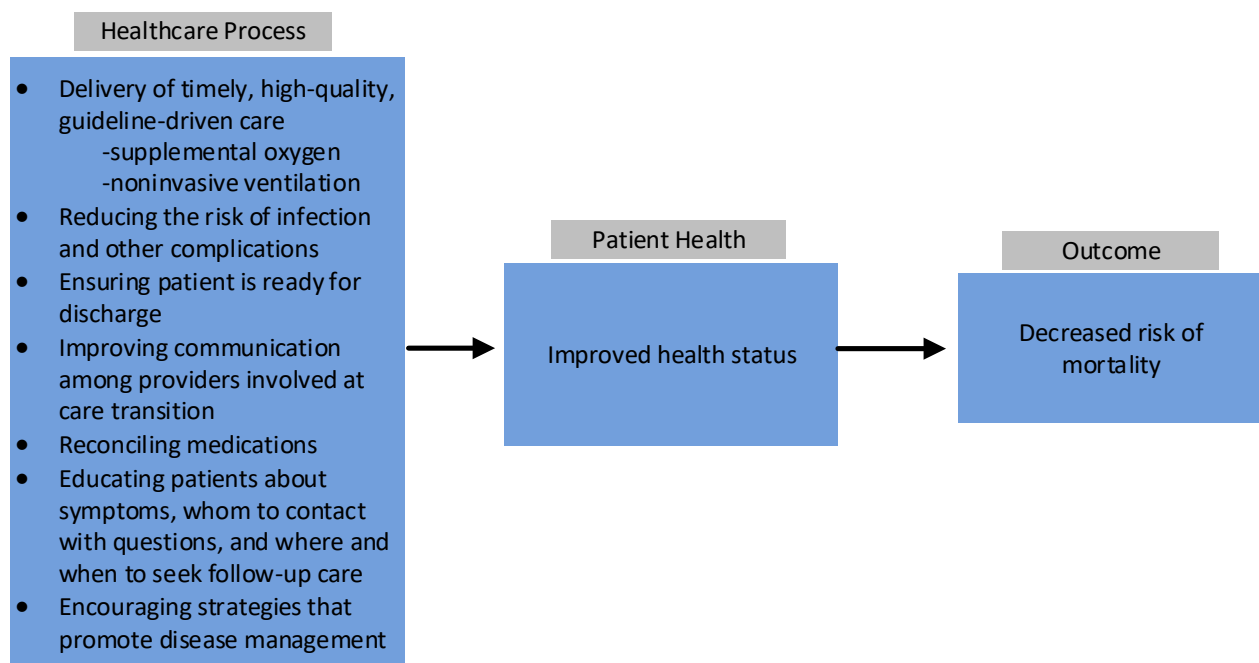
☐ Process: [Click here to name what is being measured](#)

☐ Appropriate use measure: [Click here to name what is being measured](#)

☐ Structure: [Click here to name the structure](#)

☐ Composite: [Click here to name what is being measured](#)

1a.2 LOGIC MODEL Diagram or briefly describe the steps between the healthcare structures and processes (e.g., interventions, or services) and the patient's health outcome(s). The relationships in the diagram should be easily understood by general, non-technical audiences. Indicate the structure, process or outcome being measured.



The goal of this measure is to improve patient outcomes by providing patients, physicians, and hospitals with information about hospital-level, hospital-wide, risk-standardized mortality rates.

Mortality is an unwanted outcome for the overwhelming majority of patients admitted to US hospitals. Although mortality within 30 days of hospitalization is uncommon, when assessed among appropriate patients, it provides a concrete signal of care quality across conditions and procedures. It captures the result of care processes, such as peri-operative management protocols, and the impact of both optimal care and adverse events resulting from medical care.

Measurement of patient outcomes allows for a broad view of quality of care that encompasses more than what can be captured by individual process-of-care measures. Complex and critical aspects of care, such as communication between providers, prevention of and response to, complications, patient safety, and coordinated transitions to the outpatient environment, all contribute to patient outcomes but are difficult to measure by individual process measures. The goal of outcomes measurement is to risk adjust for patients' conditions at the

1a.3 Value and Meaningfulness: IF this measure is derived from patient report, provide evidence that the target population values the measured **outcome, process, or structure** and finds it meaningful. (Describe how and from whom their input was obtained.)

N/A

****RESPOND TO ONLY ONE SECTION BELOW -EITHER 1a.2, 1a.3 or 1a.4) ****

1a.2 FOR OUTCOME MEASURES including PATIENT REPORTED OUTCOMES - Provide empirical data demonstrating the relationship between the outcome (or PRO) to at least one healthcare structure, process, intervention, or service.

Death is a finite event, easy to measure accurately, and easily understood by patients and providers. For the majority of Medicare beneficiaries admitted to acute care hospitals in the US, the goal is to avoid short-term mortality. By measuring Hospital-Wide Mortality (HWM), CMS can ensure that efforts to reduce other outcomes, such as readmissions and resource utilization, are not resulting in unintended consequences. Specifically, this HWM measure will complement the existing CMS Hospital-Wide All-Cause Risk-Standardized Readmission Measure (NQF #1789) to allow assessment of trends in hospital performance for both outcomes, similar to other complementary pairs of readmission and mortality measures for specific conditions and procedures. Further, the HWM measure will provide CMS with annually updated performance estimates for a larger proportion of the nation's hospitals, allowing significant performance outliers to be identified.

According to recent internal analyses, from July 2016 to June 2017, there were about 10 million inpatient admissions among Medicare Fee-for-Service (FFS) beneficiaries between the age of 65 and 94, at 4,700 US hospitals. The observed 30-day mortality rate was 8.17%. This is especially relevant as, while the current condition- and procedure-specific mortality measures address the most common and morbid healthcare conditions as identified by MedPAC¹ in the most recent three-year public reporting period, together they captured only 4.8 million Medicare FFS beneficiary admissions; a HWM measure is likely to capture about 6.5 million admissions across 4,700 hospitals. Using acute myocardial infarction as an example, which has seen the greatest declines in mortality, the median hospital risk-standardized mortality rate (RSMR) following admission for acute myocardial infarction has declined from 16.4% in 2006 to 13.1% in 2016 (July 2015-July 2016 data).^{2,3} If development and reporting of this HWM measures produces even a tenth as much impact, this would translate into nearly 14,000 deaths averted in a one-year period. Furthermore, if all hospitals performed as well as hospitals in the 10th percentile for RSMR, about 100,000 deaths would be averted, compared to if all hospitals were performing at the median.

For some conditions and diagnoses, evidence supports that optimal medical care reduces mortality.^{4,5} We know from ongoing improvements in condition- and procedure-specific mortality rates that interventions to improve these outcomes are feasible.² Multiple organizations, including the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI), promote a range of evidence-based strategies to reduce hospital mortality.⁶ These strategies include:

1. Adoption of strategies shown to reduce ventilator-associated pneumonia⁷⁻⁹
2. Delivery of reliable, evidence-based care for acute myocardial infarction^{10,11}
3. Prevention of adverse drug events through medication reconciliation¹²
4. Prevention of central line infections through evidence-based guideline-concordant care¹³
5. Prevention of surgical site infections through evidence-based guideline-concordant care^{14,15}

To reduce mortality, the IHI further encourages hospitals to use multidisciplinary rounds to improve communication, employ Rapid Response Teams to attend to patients at the first sign of clinical decline, identify high-risk patients on admission and increase nursing care and physician contact accordingly, standardize patient handoffs to avoid miscommunication or gaps in care, and establish partnerships with community providers to promote evidenced-based practices to reduce hospitalizations before patients become critically ill.¹⁶ The IHI's 100,000 Lives Campaign, which was created to enlist hospitals in a coordinated effort to adopt the above interventions, led to an estimated more than 120,000 lives saved over the first 18 months of the campaign.¹⁷

Some of the evidence-based recommendations above apply to specific diagnoses. While condition- and procedure-specific initiatives to reduce mortality may broadly impact mortality rates across other conditions and procedures, there is likely more to be gained by a measure of hospital-wide mortality that can inform and encourage quality improvement efforts for patients not currently captured by existing CMS mortality measures. For example, a 2017 study of a standardized, inter-hospital transfer tool found that in-hospital mortality decreased for transferred patients following implementation of a one-page handover containing information critical for immediate patient care.¹⁸

In addition, there is evidence that a hospital's organizational culture is linked to key measures of hospital quality performance.¹⁹ Since these cultural and leadership qualities affect the entire hospital, the claims-only HWM measure may provide important incentives for hospitals to not only examine their care processes and

improve care for individual conditions, but may also provide incentives to encourage care transformation and improve overall organizational culture.

References:

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2. Medicare Hospital Quality Chartbook 2010 Performance Report on Outcomes Measures for Acute Myocardial Infarction, Heart Failure, and Pneumonia September 29, 2010. Prepared by Yale New Haven Health Services Corporation Center for Outcomes Research and Evaluation. Medicare Hospital Quality Chartbook 2010: <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/HospitalQualityInits/Downloads/HospitalChartBook.pdf> Accessed February 27, 2019.
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19. Curry LA, Linnander EL, Brewster AL, Ting H, Krumholz HM, Bradley EH. Organizational culture change in U.S. hospitals: A mixed methods longitudinal intervention study. *Implementation Science*. 2015;10:29.

1a.3. SYSTEMATIC REVIEW(SR) OF THE EVIDENCE (for INTERMEDIATE OUTCOME, PROCESS, OR STRUCTURE PERFORMANCE MEASURES, INCLUDING THOSE THAT ARE INSTRUMENT-BASED) If the evidence is not based on a systematic review go to section 1a.4) If you wish to include more than one systematic review, add additional tables.

N/A. This measure is not an intermediate outcome, process, or structure performance measure.

What is the source of the systematic review of the body of evidence that supports the performance measure? A systematic review is a scientific investigation that focuses on a specific question and uses explicit, prespecified scientific methods to identify, select, assess, and summarize the findings of similar but separate studies. It may include a quantitative synthesis (meta-analysis), depending on the available data. (IOM)

- ☐ Clinical Practice Guideline recommendation (with evidence review)
- ☐ US Preventive Services Task Force Recommendation
- ☐ Other systematic review and grading of the body of evidence (e.g., *Cochrane Collaboration*, *AHRQ Evidence Practice Center*)
- ☐ Other

Source of Systematic Review: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Title • Author • Date • Citation, including page number 	
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• URL	
Quote the guideline or recommendation verbatim about the process, structure or intermediate outcome being measured. If not a guideline, summarize the conclusions from the SR.	
Grade assigned to the evidence associated with the recommendation with the definition of the grade	
Provide all other grades and definitions from the evidence grading system	
Grade assigned to the recommendation with definition of the grade	
Provide all other grades and definitions from the recommendation grading system	
Body of evidence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quantity – how many studies? Quality – what type of studies? 	
Estimates of benefit and consistency across studies	
What harms were identified?	
Identify any new studies conducted since the SR. Do the new studies change the conclusions from the SR?	

1a.4 OTHER SOURCE OF EVIDENCE

If source of evidence is NOT from a clinical practice guideline, USPSTF, or systematic review, please describe the evidence on which you are basing the performance measure.

N/A

1a.4.1 Briefly **SYNTHESIZE** the evidence that supports the measure. A list of references without a summary is not acceptable.

N/A

1a.4.2 What process was used to identify the evidence?

N/A

1a.4.3. Provide the citation(s) for the evidence.

N/A

1b. Performance Gap

Demonstration of quality problems and opportunity for improvement, i.e., data demonstrating:

- considerable variation, or overall less-than-optimal performance, in the quality of care across providers; and/or
- Disparities in care across population groups.

1b.1. Briefly explain the rationale for this measure (e.g., how the measure will improve the quality of care, the benefits or improvements in quality envisioned by use of this measure)

If a COMPOSITE (e.g., combination of component measure scores, all-or-none, any-or-none), SKIP this question and answer the composite questions.

The goal of this measure is to improve patient outcomes by providing patients, physicians, hospitals, and policy makers with information about hospital-level, risk-standardized mortality rates following hospitalization for a range of medical conditions and surgical procedures. Measurement of patient outcomes allows for a broad view of quality of care that encompasses more than what can be captured by individual process-of-care measures. Complex and critical aspects of care, such as communication between providers, prevention of and response to complications, patient safety, and coordinated transitions to the outpatient environment, all contribute to patient outcomes but are difficult to measure by individual process measures. The goal of outcomes measurement is to risk-adjust for patients' conditions at the time of hospital admission and then evaluate patient outcomes. This measure was developed to identify institutions whose performance is better or worse than would be expected based on their patient case mix, and therefore promote hospital quality improvement and better inform consumers about care quality. The more granular division-level results can support the targeting of service-line quality improvement.

Mortality is a significant outcome that is meaningful to patients and providers. For the majority of Medicare beneficiaries admitted to acute care hospitals in the US, the goal is to avoid short-term mortality. According to recent internal analyses, from July 2016 to June 2017, there were about 10 million inpatient admissions among Medicare FFS beneficiaries between the ages of 65 and 94, at 4,700 US hospitals. The observed mean 30-day mortality rate was 8.17%. The range of mortality scores on the HWM measure from 4692 acute-care hospitals was 3.95%-8.70% across more than 4.3 million admissions.

This measure incorporates both data from claims as well as clinical data elements pulled from the EHR in risk-adjustment of the mortality model. Some benefits of including the clinical data elements are:

1. Inclusion of patient-level clinical data related to severity of illness is responsive to providers who continue to express preference for using patient-level clinical data, and provides an opportunity to incorporate clinical data into outcome measures.
2. Hospitals will increasingly use EHR data to assess severity of illness and patients' risk of poor outcomes. This provides an opportunity to align the measure with clinical decision support systems that many providers utilize to alert care teams about patients at increased risk of poor outcomes in real time during the inpatient stay.
3. Collecting a simple core set of clinical data elements that perform well as risk-adjustment variables (for illness severity) across conditions can greatly reduce the cost and effort of future measure development, improve harmonization, and create opportunity for longitudinal assessment of patient status and quality of care across settings.
4. These core clinical data elements will provide measure developers with a standard set of reliable data that can be used as a starting place when building risk-adjustment models for quality measures using clinical data.

1b.2. Provide performance scores on the measure as specified (current and over time) at the specified level of analysis. *(This is required for maintenance of endorsement. Include mean, std dev, min, max, interquartile range, scores by decile. Describe the data source including number of measured entities; number of patients; dates of data; if a sample, characteristics of the entities include.) This information also will be used to address the sub-criterion on improvement (4b1) under Usability and Use.*

Because we were limited to the use of a small dataset from a single health system for the development of the hybrid HWM measure, the distribution of measure scores (RSMRs) from this limited dataset would not be representative of the nation as a whole. Therefore, we provide the results from the claims-based measure

below. The hybrid HWM uses the same concept, cohort and outcome and claims-based risk adjustment variables as the claims-only measure. There is no conceptual reason to believe that the results from the claims-only measure would be significantly dissimilar to results from the hybrid measure.

We refer below to the variation shown in the claims-only measure as an example of how we would expect the distribution of the hybrid RSMR to look, given a national sample of hospitals.

We conducted analyses using data from July 2016 to June 2017 Medicare claims data (4,335,530 admissions from 4692 hospitals).

In the study cohort, the mean hospital-level risk standardized mortality rate (RSMR) was 6.85%, with a range of 3.95%-8.70%. As shown below, the median risk-standardized rate was 6.93% (25th and 75th percentiles were 6.66% and 7.09%, respectively).

RSMR Distribution:

Min, 3.95%
1st, 5.57%
5th, 6.07%
10th, 6.32%
25th, 6.66%
50th, 6.93%
75th, 7.09%
90th, 7.26%
95th, 7.40%
99th, 7.75%
Max, 8.70%

Below we provide RSMRs by decile of performance for the Overall RSMR

Decile: Min (RSMR)-Max (RSMR)

1: 3.95%-6.32%
2: 6.32%-6.58%
3: 6.58%-6.74%
4: 6.74%-6.85%
5: 6.85%-6.93%
6: 6.93%-6.99%
7: 6.99%-7.05%
8: 7.05%-7.13%
9: 7.13%-7.26%
10: 7.26%-8.70%

1b.3. If no or limited performance data on the measure as specified is reported in 1b2, then provide a summary of data from the literature that indicates opportunity for improvement or overall less than optimal performance on the specific focus of measurement.

Mortality is a significant outcome that is meaningful to patients and providers, and the vast majority of patients admitted to the hospital have survival as a primary goal. For the majority of Medicare beneficiaries admitted to acute care hospitals in the US, the goal is to avoid short-term mortality. According to recent internal analyses, from July 2016 to June 2017, there were about 10 million inpatient admissions among

Medicare FFS beneficiaries between the ages of 65 and 94, at 4,700 US hospitals. The observed 30-day mortality rate was 8.17%.

Furthermore, estimates using data from 2002 to 2008 suggest that more than 400,000 patients die each year from preventable harm in hospitals.[1] While we do not expect mortality rates to be zero, studies have shown that mortality within 30 days of hospital admission is related to quality of care, and that high and variable mortality rates across hospitals indicate opportunities for improvement.[2,3]

In addition, hospital-wide mortality has been the focus of a number of previous quality reporting initiatives in the U.S. and other countries. Prior efforts have met with some success and a number of challenges. Through our environmental scan and literature review, we identified multiple hospital-wide mortality measures reported at the state-level, and several at the health-system level. There is no hospital-wide mortality measure reported at the national-level in the United States.

While existing condition- and procedure-specific mortality measures provide specificity for targeted quality improvement work and may have contributed to national declines in hospital mortality rates for measured conditions (Suter et al., 2014), they do not, however, allow broader statements about a hospital's performance, nor do they meaningfully capture performance for small-volume hospitals. Further, existing mortality measures may not capture cross-cutting hospital-wide characteristics that also contribute to quality of care. These factors may be difficult to measure, such as a global culture of safety, good communication across teams, multidisciplinary care teams, coordination with community services and efforts, and effective care transitions.

References:

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2. Peterson ED, Roe MT, Mulgund J, et al. Association between hospital process performance and outcomes among patients with acute coronary syndromes. *JAMA*. 2006;295(16):1912-1920.
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1b.4. Provide disparities data from the measure as specified (current and over time) by population group, e.g., by race/ethnicity, gender, age, insurance status, socioeconomic status, and/or disability. (*This is required for maintenance of endorsement. Describe the data source including number of measured entities; number of patients; dates of data; if a sample, characteristics of the entities included.*) For measures that show high levels of performance, i.e., "topped out", disparities data may demonstrate an opportunity for improvement/gap in care for certain sub-populations. This information also will be used to address the sub-criterion on improvement (4b1) under Usability and Use.

Because we were limited to the use of a small dataset from a single health system for the development of the hybrid HWM measure, any results from analysis of social risk factors in this limited dataset would not be representative of the nation as a whole. Therefore, we provide the results of analysis of social risk factors from the claims-based measure in this application. The hybrid HWM uses the same concept, cohort and outcome and claims-based risk adjustment variables as the claims-only measure. There is no conceptual reason to believe that the results from the claims-only measure would be significantly dissimilar to results from the hybrid measure.

This analysis used Dataset 2, which included Medicare FFS claims from July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017, with 4,692 hospitals and a total of 4,335,530 admissions (study cohort).

The distribution of patients with the dual eligible risk factor across measured hospitals was:

Median: 14.6%

Interquartile range: 9.2%-22.8%

Measure score (RSMR) percentile: bottom vs. top quartile for proportion of patients with dual eligible risk factor

Min: 4.28% vs. 4.50%

10th: 6.18% vs 6.21%

25th: 6.48% vs. 6.57%

Median: 6.73% vs. 6.8%

75th: 6.99% vs. 7.11%

90th: 7.31% vs. 7.44%

Maximum: 8.61% vs. 9.20%

The distribution of patients with the low SES AHRQ social risk factor across measured hospitals was:

Median: 17%

Interquartile range: 7.1%-34.2%

Measure score (RSMR) percentile: bottom vs. top quartile for proportion of patients with the low SES AHRQ social risk factor.

Min: 4.28% vs. 4.51%

10th: 6.22% vs 6.37%

25th: 6.55% vs. 6.61%

Median: 6.73% vs. 6.84%

75th: 7.03% vs. 7.19%

90th: 7.29% vs. 7.55%

Maximum: 8.37% vs. 9.20%

Please see section 2b3.4b of the testing form for an in-depth analysis of social risk factors.

1b.5. If no or limited data on disparities from the measure as specified is reported in 1b.4, then provide a summary of data from the literature that addresses disparities in care on the specific focus of measurement. Include citations. Not necessary if performance data provided in 1b.4

N/A

2. Reliability and Validity—Scientific Acceptability of Measure Properties

Extent to which the measure, as specified, produces consistent (reliable) and credible (valid) results about the quality of care when implemented. ***Measures must be judged to meet the sub criteria for both reliability and validity to pass this criterion and be evaluated against the remaining criteria.***

2a.1. Specifications The measure is well defined and precisely specified so it can be implemented consistently within and across organizations and allows for comparability. eMeasures should be specified in the Health Quality Measures Format (HQMF) and the Quality Data Model (QDM).

De.5. Subject/Topic Area (check all the areas that apply):

De.6. Non-Condition Specific(check all the areas that apply):

De.7. Target Population Category (Check all the populations for which the measure is specified and tested if any):

S.1. Measure-specific Web Page (Provide a URL link to a web page specific for this measure that contains current detailed specifications including code lists, risk model details, and supplemental materials. Do not enter a URL linking to a home page or to general information.)

N/A

S.2a. If this is an eMeasure, HQMF specifications must be attached. Attach the zipped output from the eMeasure authoring tool (MAT) - if the MAT was not used, contact staff. (Use the specification fields in this online form for the plain-language description of the specifications)

This is not an eMeasure **Attachment:**

S.2b. Data Dictionary, Code Table, or Value Sets (and risk model codes and coefficients when applicable) must be attached. (Excel or csv file in the suggested format preferred - if not, contact staff)

Attachment Attachment: Del18b2HOP5HWMHybridDataDictionary01072019.xlsx

S.2c. Is this an instrument-based measure (i.e., data collected via instruments, surveys, tools, questionnaires, scales, etc.)? Attach copy of instrument if available.

No, this is not an instrument-based measure **Attachment:**

S.2d. Is this an instrument-based measure (i.e., data collected via instruments, surveys, tools, questionnaires, scales, etc.)? Attach copy of instrument if available.

Not an instrument-based measure

S.3.1. For maintenance of endorsement: Are there changes to the specifications since the last updates/submission. If yes, update the specifications for S1-2 and S4-22 and explain reasons for the changes in S3.2.

No

S.3.2. For maintenance of endorsement, please briefly describe any important changes to the measure specifications since last measure update and explain the reasons.

N/A

S.4. Numerator Statement (Brief, narrative description of the measure focus or what is being measured about the target population, i.e., cases from the target population with the target process, condition, event, or outcome) DO NOT include the rationale for the measure.

IF an OUTCOME MEASURE, state the outcome being measured. Calculation of the risk-adjusted outcome should be described in the calculation algorithm (S.14).

The outcome for this measure is 30-day, all-cause mortality. Mortality is defined as death from any cause, either during or after admission, within 30 days of the index admission date.

S.5. Numerator Details (All information required to identify and calculate the cases from the target population with the target process, condition, event, or outcome such as definitions, time period for data collection, specific data collection items/responses, code/value sets – Note: lists of individual codes with descriptors that exceed 1 page should be provided in an Excel or csv file in required format at S.2b)

IF an OUTCOME MEASURE, describe how the observed outcome is identified/counted. Calculation of the risk-adjusted outcome should be described in the calculation algorithm (S.14).

The measure outcome is death from any cause within 30 days of the admission date of the index admission. The numerator is a binary variable (1=yes/0=no) that indicates whether the patient died within 30 days of the index admission date.

S.6. Denominator Statement (Brief, narrative description of the target population being measured)

The cohort includes inpatient admissions for a wide variety of conditions for patients aged between 50 and 94 years old who were discharged from short-term acute care hospitals. If a patient has more than one admission during the measurement year, one admission is randomly selected for inclusion in the measure. Additional details are provided in S.7 Denominator Details. The age range for this measure differs from that of the claims-only measure due to the limited size of the dataset used for testing. The intent is to harmonize the age range of the hybrid measure with the age range of the claims-only measure, so that both will include admissions for patients age 65-94.

S.7. Denominator Details *(All information required to identify and calculate the target population/denominator such as definitions, time period for data collection, specific data collection items/responses, code/value sets – Note: lists of individual codes with descriptors that exceed 1 page should be provided in an Excel or csv file in required format at S.2b.)*

IF an OUTCOME MEASURE, describe how the target population is identified. Calculation of the risk-adjusted outcome should be described in the calculation algorithm (S.14).

The index cohort includes all inpatient admissions for patients aged 50-94 years old. (Note: The intention is to fully harmonize the cohort definition with the claims-only measure so that both measures will capture admissions for patients age 65-94. We deviated from that definition during development and testing due to the limited dataset available that included the EHR data elements needed to calculate this measure. Note that the risk model already includes age in years, as a risk variable.)

An index admission is the hospitalization to which the mortality outcome is attributed and includes admissions for patients:

1. Not transferred from another acute care facility

Rationale: Admissions to an acute care hospital within one day of discharge from another acute care hospital are considered transfers. Transferred patients are included in the measure cohort, but it is the initial hospitalization rather than any “transfer-in” hospitalization(s), that is included as the hospitalization to which the mortality outcome is attributed (the index admission).

2. Aged between 50 and 94 years

The hybrid measure is intended for the Medicare FFS population but was tested in a limited dataset due to the EHR data elements included. The use of a small dataset required that we expand the sample by including admissions from patients ages 50 to 94 years. Note that the measure already adjusts for age.

3. Not admitted for primary psychiatric diagnoses

Rationale: Patients admitted for psychiatric treatment are typically cared for in separate psychiatric facilities that are not comparable to short-term acute care hospitals (see data dictionary, HWM Non-Acute Care Inclusion tab).

4. Not admitted for rehabilitation

Rationale: These admissions are not typically to a short-term acute care hospital and are not for acute care (see data dictionary, HWM Non-Acute Care Inclusion tab).

5. Not enrolled in hospice at the time of, or 12 months prior to, their index admission

Rationale: Patients enrolled in hospice in the prior 12 months or at the time of admission are unlikely to have 30-day survival as a primary goal

6. Not enrolled in hospice within two days of admission

Rationale: There is not a single, correct approach regarding patients enrolled in hospice during admission or upon discharge – mortality may or may not represent a quality signal for this group of patients and hospice enrollment is inadequate to differentiate this issue. However, for most patients and/or families who had the discussion and agreed to enroll in hospice within two days of admission, 30-day survival is not likely the primary goal due to their condition and not the quality of care received.

7. Not with a principal diagnosis of cancer and enrolled in hospice during their index admission

Rationale: Patients admitted primarily for cancer who are enrolled in hospice during admission are unlikely to have 30-day survival as a primary goal of care. (see data dictionary, HWM Cancer Inclusion tab).

8. Without any diagnosis of metastatic cancer

Rationale: Although some patients admitted with a diagnosis of metastatic cancer will have 30-day survival as a primary goal of care, for many such patients admitted to the hospital, death may be a clinically reasonable and patient-centered outcome. (see data dictionary, HWM Metastatic Cancer Inclusion tab).

9. Not with a principal discharge diagnosis, or a secondary diagnosis that is present on admission (POA) for a condition which hospitals have limited ability to influence survival

Rationale: Hospitals have little ability to impact mortality for some conditions. This list of conditions (see data dictionary, HWM ICD-10 Inclusion tab) was determined through independent review, by several clinicians, of conditions associated with high mortality. The decisions were also reviewed with our Technical Expert Panel (TEP) and Technical Work Group. Admissions are not included in the cohort if the patient had a principal diagnosis code that is on this list, or a secondary code with POA that is on the list.

In addition, for patients with multiple admissions, the measure selects only one admission, at random, for inclusion. There is no practical statistical modeling approach that can account or adjust for the complex relationship between the number of admissions and risk of mortality in the context of a hospital-wide mortality measure. Random selection ensures that providers are not penalized for a “last” admission during the measurement period; selecting the last admission would not be as accurate a reflection of the risk of death as random selection, as the last admission is inherently associated with a higher mortality risk. Random selection is also used in CMS’s condition-specific mortality measures. Note that random selection reduces the number of admissions, but does not exclude any patients from the measure.

The cohort is defined using ICD-10 Clinical Modification codes identified in Medicare Part A Inpatient claims data. The measure aggregates the ICD-10 principal diagnosis and all procedure codes of the index admission into clinically coherent groups of conditions and procedures (condition categories or procedure categories) using the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Clinical Classifications System (CCS). There is a total of 285 mutually exclusive AHRQ condition categories, most of which are single, homogenous diseases such as pneumonia or acute myocardial infarction. Some are aggregates of conditions, such as “other bacterial infections”. There is a total of 231 mutually exclusive procedure categories. Using the AHRQ CCS procedure and condition categories, the measure assigns each index hospitalization to one of 15 mutually exclusive divisions. The divisions were created based upon clinical coherence, consistency of mortality risk, adequate patient and hospital case volume for stable results reporting, and input from clinicians, patients, and patient caregivers on usability.

The measure first assigns admissions with qualifying AHRQ procedure categories to one of six surgery divisions by identifying a defining surgical procedure. The defining surgical procedure is identified using the following algorithm: 1) if a patient only has one major surgical procedure then that procedure is the defining surgical procedure; 2) if a patient has more than one major surgical procedure, the first dated procedure performed during the index admission is the defining surgical procedure; 3) if there is more than one major surgical procedure on that earliest date, the procedure with the highest mortality rate is the defining surgical procedure. These divisions include admissions likely cared for by surgical teams.

The surgical divisions are: Surgical Cancer (see note below), Cardiothoracic Surgery, General Surgery, Neurosurgery, Orthopedic Surgery, and Other Surgical Procedures.

For the Surgical Cancer division, any admission that includes a surgical procedure and a principal discharge diagnosis code of cancer is assigned to the Surgical Cancer division. This division and the logic behind it was implemented in response to feedback from our Technical Expert Panel.

The measure then assigns the remaining admissions into one of the nine non-surgical divisions based on the AHRQ diagnostic CCS of the principal discharge diagnosis. The non-surgical divisions are: Cancer, Cardiac, Gastrointestinal, Infectious Disease, Neurology, Orthopedic, Pulmonary, Renal, Other Conditions.

The full list of the specific diagnosis and procedure AHRQ CCS categories used to define the divisions are attached in the Data Dictionary.

S.8. Denominator Exclusions *(Brief narrative description of exclusions from the target population)*

The measure excludes index admissions for patients:

1. With inconsistent or unknown vital status (from claims data) or other unreliable claims data;
2. Discharged against medical advice (AMA);
3. With an admission for spinal cord injury (CCS 227), skull and face fractures (CCS 228), Intracranial Injury (CCS 233), Crushing injury or internal injury (CCS 234), Open wounds of head/neck/trunk (CCS 235), and burns (CCS 240); and
4. With a principal discharge diagnosis within a CCS with fewer than 100 admissions in that division within the measurement year.

S.9. Denominator Exclusion Details *(All information required to identify and calculate exclusions from the denominator such as definitions, time period for data collection, specific data collection items/responses, code/value sets – Note: lists of individual codes with descriptors that exceed 1 page should be provided in an Excel or csv file in required format at S.2b.)*

1. With inconsistent or unknown vital status (from claims data) or other unreliable claims data.

Rationale: The measure does not include stays for patients where the admission date is after the date of death, or where the date of death occurs before the date of discharge but the patient was discharged alive because these are likely errors in the data.

2. Discharged against medical advice (AMA)

Rationale: Providers did not have the opportunity to deliver full care and prepare the patient for discharge.

3. With an admission for spinal cord injury (CCS 227), skull and face fractures (CCS 228), Intracranial Injury (CCS 233), Crushing injury or internal injury (CCS 234), Open wounds of head/neck/trunk (CCS 235), and burns (CCS 240).

Rationale: Even though a hospital likely can influence the outcome of some of these conditions, in many cases death events are not a signal of poor quality of care when patients present with these conditions. These conditions are also infrequent events that are unlikely to be uniformly distributed across hospitals.

4. With a principal discharge diagnosis within a CCS with fewer than 100 admissions in that division within the measurement year.

Rationale: To calculate a stable and precise risk model, there are a minimum number of admissions that are needed. In addition, a minimum number of admissions and/or outcome events are required to inform grouping admissions into larger categories. These admissions present challenges to both accurate risk prediction and coherent risk grouping and are therefore excluded.

Note: During measure development we analyzed different volume cut-offs (25, 50 and 100). Using cut-off values below 100 resulted in too many CCS codes in some of the divisions (the CCS category codes are used in risk adjustment) which resulted in non-convergence of those division-level risk models. The total number of patients excluded is very small (13,597 or 0.21% of admissions for a cut off of 100). During measure development we also explored the option of pooling low-volume CCS codes (CCS<100 patients) into one group, however, the heterogeneity in mortality rates for the individual ICD-10 codes in those groups would preclude adequate risk adjustment. The TEP supported excluding these admissions.

S.10. Stratification Information *(Provide all information required to stratify the measure results, if necessary, including the stratification variables, definitions, specific data collection items/responses, code/value sets, and*

the risk-model covariates and coefficients for the clinically-adjusted version of the measure when appropriate – Note: lists of individual codes with descriptors that exceed 1 page should be provided in an Excel or csv file in required format with at S.2b.)

N/A

S.11. Risk Adjustment Type (Select type. Provide specifications for risk stratification in measure testing attachment)

Statistical risk model

If other:

S.12. Type of score:

Rate/proportion

If other:

S.13. Interpretation of Score (Classifies interpretation of score according to whether better quality is associated with a higher score, a lower score, a score falling within a defined interval, or a passing score)

Better quality = Lower score

S.14. Calculation Algorithm/Measure Logic (Diagram or describe the calculation of the measure score as an ordered sequence of steps including identifying the target population; exclusions; cases meeting the target process, condition, event, or outcome; time period for data, aggregating data; risk adjustment; etc.)

The measure estimates hospital-level, risk-standardized mortality rates (RSMRs) within 30 days of hospital admission using hierarchical logistical regression models through a Bayesian Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) procedure. In brief, we used hierarchical logistic regression to model the log-odds of mortality for each of the 15 service-line divisions. Death within 30 days was modeled as a function of patient-level demographic and clinical characteristics and a random hospital-level intercept. This model specification accounts for within-hospital correlation of the observed outcomes and models the assumption that underlying differences in quality among the health care facilities being evaluated lead to systematic differences in outcomes. We estimated a separate hierarchical logistic regression model for each service-line division. In order to obtain the variance and interval estimates, we fit the hierarchical model under the Bayesian framework along with the Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) technique.

Admissions are assigned to one of 15 mutually exclusive divisions (groups of discharge condition categories and procedure categories). For each division and each hospital with patients in that division, the standardized mortality ratio (SMR) is calculated as the ratio of the number of “predicted” deaths to the number of “expected” deaths at a given hospital. The predicted number of deaths is based on the hospital’s performance with its observed case mix and service mix, and is calculated by using the coefficients estimated by regressing the risk factors and the hospital-specific effect on the risk of mortality. The estimated hospital-specific effect for each cohort is added to the sum of the estimated regression coefficients multiplied by patient characteristics. The results are transformed via an inverse logit function and summed over all patients attributed to a hospital to get a predicted value. The expected number of deaths is based on the nation’s performance with that hospital’s case mix and service mix and is obtained in the same manner, but a common effect using all hospitals in our sample is added in place of the hospital-specific effect. The results are transformed via an inverse logit function and summed over all patients in the hospital to get an expected value. This approach is analogous to a ratio of “observed” to “expected” used in other types of statistical analyses. It conceptually allows a particular hospital’s performance, given its case mix and service mix, to be compared to an average hospital’s performance with the same case mix and service mix. Thus, a lower ratio indicates lower-than-expected mortality rates or better quality, while a higher ratio indicates higher-than-expected mortality rates or worse quality.

To assess hospital performance for each reporting period, the measure re-estimates the model coefficients using the data in that period.

The division-level SMRs are then pooled for each hospital using an inverse variance-weighted geometric mean to create a hospital-wide composite SMR. (Note that in the case of the hybrid measure, we are presenting data from 9 of the total 15 divisions due to limitations in availability of electronic health records data). The hospital-wide SMR is then multiplied by the national observed mortality rate to produce the RSMR.

S.15. Sampling *(If measure is based on a sample, provide instructions for obtaining the sample and guidance on minimum sample size.)*

IF an instrument-based performance measure (e.g., PRO-PM), identify whether (and how) proxy responses are allowed.

N/A This measure is not based on a sample.

S.16. Survey/Patient-reported data *(If measure is based on a survey or instrument, provide instructions for data collection and guidance on minimum response rate.)*

Specify calculation of response rates to be reported with performance measure results.

N/A This measure is not based on a survey or patient-reported data.

S.17. Data Source *(Check ONLY the sources for which the measure is SPECIFIED AND TESTED).*

If other, please describe in S.18.

Claims, Electronic Health Records, Other

S.18. Data Source or Collection Instrument *(Identify the specific data source/data collection instrument (e.g. name of database, clinical registry, collection instrument, etc., and describe how data are collected.)*

IF instrument-based, identify the specific instrument(s) and standard methods, modes, and languages of administration.

Clinical-Hybrid Dataset

Constructed using Kaiser Permanente Northern California matched administrative claims and electronic health record (EHR) data, admission dates from October 1, 2015 – December 30, 2016. This data source was used for measure testing. (An earlier Kaiser dataset from that included all admissions for adult patients to any of their member hospitals between January 1, 2009 and June 30, 2015 was used for measure development, as described in the attached methodology report).

The two data sources listed below were used for testing the claims-based measure; the hybrid testing form includes some testing data from the claims-based measure (for example, for the social risk factor and external validation analyses).

HWM claims-only datasets:

Medicare Part A Inpatient Claims Data

The index dataset contains administrative inpatient hospitalization data for Medicare FFS beneficiaries, aged 65-94 on admission. The history dataset includes administrative inpatient hospitalization data on each patient for the 12 months prior to the index admission. This data was used along with the Medicare Enrollment Database (EDB) for testing the claims-based measure.

Medicare Enrollment Database (EDB)

This database contains Medicare beneficiary demographic, benefit/coverage, and vital status information. This data source was used to obtain information on several inclusion/exclusion indicators such as Medicare status on admission as well as vital status. It was also used to determine hospice enrollment.

S.19. Data Source or Collection Instrument *(available at measure-specific Web page URL identified in S.1 OR in attached appendix at A.1)*

No data collection instrument provided

S.20. Level of Analysis *(Check ONLY the levels of analysis for which the measure is SPECIFIED AND TESTED)*

Facility

S.21. Care Setting (Check *ONLY* the settings for which the measure is SPECIFIED AND TESTED)

Inpatient/Hospital, Other

If other: Home-based primary care and home-based palliative care); Settings include: Home, Boarding home, Domiciliary, Assisted Living Facilities, Rest Home or Custodial Care Services

S.22. COMPOSITE Performance Measure - Additional Specifications (Use this section as needed for aggregation and weighting rules, or calculation of individual performance measures if not individually endorsed.)

N/A

2. Validity – See attached Measure Testing Submission Form

Hybrid_Hospital-

Wide_Mortality_Public_Comment_Technical_Report.pdf,Del18b1HOP5HWMClaimsTestingForm01242019-636839462187591404.docx

2.1 For maintenance of endorsement

Reliability testing: If testing of reliability of the measure score was not presented in prior submission(s), has reliability testing of the measure score been conducted? If yes, please provide results in the Testing attachment. Please use the most current version of the testing attachment (v7.1). Include information on all testing conducted (prior testing as well as any new testing); use red font to indicate updated testing.

2.2 For maintenance of endorsement

Has additional empirical validity testing of the measure score been conducted? If yes, please provide results in the Testing attachment. Please use the most current version of the testing attachment (v7.1). Include information on all testing conducted (prior testing as well as any new testing); use red font to indicate updated testing.

2.3 For maintenance of endorsement

Risk adjustment: For outcome, resource use, cost, and some process measures, risk-adjustment that includes social risk factors is not prohibited at present. Please update sections 1.8, 2a2, 2b1,2b4.3 and 2b5 in the Testing attachment and S.140 and S.11 in the online submission form. NOTE: These sections must be updated even if social risk factors are not included in the risk-adjustment strategy. You MUST use the most current version of the Testing Attachment (v7.1) -- older versions of the form will not have all required questions.

Measure Testing (subcriteria 2a2, 2b1-2b6)

NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM—Measure Testing (subcriteria 2a2, 2b1-2b6)

Measure Number (if previously endorsed): N/A

Measure Title: Hybrid Hospital-Wide (All-Condition, All-Procedure) Risk-Standardized Mortality Measure

Date of Submission: 1/7/2019

Type of Measure:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Outcome (including PRO-PM)	<input type="checkbox"/> Composite – STOP – use composite testing form
<input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate Clinical Outcome	<input type="checkbox"/> Cost/resource
<input type="checkbox"/> Process (including Appropriate Use)	<input type="checkbox"/> Efficiency
<input type="checkbox"/> Structure	

Instructions

- Measures must be tested for all the data sources and levels of analyses that are specified. *If there is more than one set of data specifications or more than one level of analysis, contact NQF staff* about how to present all the testing information in one form.
- For all measures, sections 1, 2a2, 2b1, 2b2, and 2b4 must be completed.
- For outcome and resource use measures, section 2b3 also must be completed.
- If specified for multiple data sources/sets of specifications (e.g., claims and EHRs), section 2b5 also must be completed.
- Respond to all questions as instructed with answers immediately following the question. All information on testing to demonstrate meeting the subcriteria for reliability (2a2) and validity (2b1-2b6) must be in this form. An appendix for *supplemental* materials may be submitted, but there is no guarantee it will be reviewed.
- If you are unable to check a box, please highlight or shade the box for your response.
- Maximum of 25 pages (*including questions/instructions*; minimum font size 11 pt; do not change margins). *Contact NQF staff if more pages are needed.*
- Contact NQF staff regarding questions. Check for resources at [Submitting Standards webpage](#).
- For information on the most updated guidance on how to address social risk factors variables and testing in this form refer to the release notes for version 7.1 of the Measure Testing Attachment.

Note: The information provided in this form is intended to aid the Standing Committee and other stakeholders in understanding to what degree the testing results for this measure meet NQF's evaluation criteria for testing.

2a2. Reliability testing [10](#) demonstrates the measure data elements are repeatable, producing the same results a high proportion of the time when assessed in the same population in the same time period and/or that the measure score is precise. For instrument-based measures (including PRO-PMs) and composite performance measures, reliability should be demonstrated for the computed performance score.

2b1. Validity testing [11](#) demonstrates that the measure data elements are correct and/or the measure score correctly reflects the quality of care provided, adequately identifying differences in quality. For instrument-based measures (including PRO-PMs) and composite performance measures, validity should be demonstrated for the computed performance score.

2b2. Exclusions are supported by the clinical evidence and are of sufficient frequency to warrant inclusion in the specifications of the measure; [12](#)

AND

If patient preference (e.g., informed decisionmaking) is a basis for exclusion, there must be evidence that the exclusion impacts performance on the measure; in such cases, the measure must be specified so that the information about patient preference and the effect on the measure is transparent (e.g., numerator category computed separately, denominator exclusion category computed separately). [13](#)

2b3. For outcome measures and other measures when indicated (e.g., resource use):

- an evidence-based risk-adjustment strategy (e.g., risk models, risk stratification) is specified; is based on patient factors (including clinical and social risk factors) that influence the measured outcome and are present at start of care; [14,15](#) and has demonstrated adequate discrimination and calibration

OR

- rationale/data support no risk adjustment/ stratification.

2b4. Data analysis of computed measure scores demonstrates that methods for scoring and analysis of the specified measure allow for identification of statistically significant and practically/clinically meaningful ¹⁶ differences in performance;

OR

there is evidence of overall less-than-optimal performance.

2b5. If multiple data sources/methods are specified, there is demonstration they produce comparable results.

2b6. Analyses identify the extent and distribution of missing data (or nonresponse) and demonstrate that performance results are not biased due to systematic missing data (or differences between responders and nonresponders) and how the specified handling of missing data minimizes bias.

Notes

10. Reliability testing applies to both the data elements and computed measure score. Examples of reliability testing for data elements include, but are not limited to: inter-rater/abstractor or intra-rater/abstractor studies; internal consistency for multi-item scales; test-retest for survey items. Reliability testing of the measure score addresses precision of measurement (e.g., signal-to-noise).

11. Validity testing applies to both the data elements and computed measure score. Validity testing of data elements typically analyzes agreement with another authoritative source of the same information. Examples of validity testing of the measure score include, but are not limited to: testing hypotheses that the measures scores indicate quality of care, e.g., measure scores are different for groups known to have differences in quality assessed by another valid quality measure or method; correlation of measure scores with another valid indicator of quality for the specific topic; or relationship to conceptually related measures (e.g., scores on process measures to scores on outcome measures). Face validity of the measure score as a quality indicator may be adequate if accomplished through a systematic and transparent process, by identified experts, and explicitly addresses whether performance scores resulting from the measure as specified can be used to distinguish good from poor quality. The degree of consensus and any areas of disagreement must be provided/discussed.

12. Examples of evidence that an exclusion distorts measure results include, but are not limited to: frequency of occurrence, variability of exclusions across providers, and sensitivity analyses with and without the exclusion.

13. Patient preference is not a clinical exception to eligibility and can be influenced by provider interventions.

14. Risk factors that influence outcomes should not be specified as exclusions.

15. With large enough sample sizes, small differences that are statistically significant may or may not be practically or clinically meaningful. The substantive question may be, for example, whether a statistically significant difference of one percentage point in the percentage of patients who received smoking cessation counseling (e.g., 74 percent v. 75 percent) is clinically meaningful; or whether a statistically significant difference of \$25 in cost for an episode of care (e.g., \$5,000 v. \$5,025) is practically meaningful. Measures with overall less-than-optimal performance may not demonstrate much variability across providers.

1. DATA/SAMPLE USED FOR ALL TESTING OF THIS MEASURE

Often the same data are used for all aspects of measure testing. In an effort to eliminate duplication, the first five questions apply to all measure testing. If there are differences by aspect of testing, (e.g., reliability vs. validity) be sure to indicate the specific differences in question 1.7.

1.1. What type of data was used for testing? (Check all the sources of data identified in the measure specifications and data used for testing the measure. Testing must be provided for all the sources of data specified and intended for measure implementation. **If different data sources are used for the numerator and denominator, indicate N [numerator] or D [denominator] after the checkbox.**)

Measure Specified to Use Data From:

Measure Tested with Data From:

(must be consistent with data sources entered in S.17)	
<input type="checkbox"/> abstracted from paper record	<input type="checkbox"/> abstracted from paper record
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> claims	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> claims
<input type="checkbox"/> registry	<input type="checkbox"/> registry
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> abstracted from electronic health record	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> abstracted from electronic health record
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> eMeasure (HQMF) implemented in EHRs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> eMeasure (HQMF) implemented in EHRs
<input type="checkbox"/> other:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Medicare FFS claims and enrollment data (results from claims-only measure)

1.2. If an existing dataset was used, identify the specific dataset (the dataset used for testing must be consistent with the measure specifications for target population and healthcare entities being measured; e.g., Medicare Part A claims, Medicaid claims, other commercial insurance, nursing home MDS, home health OASIS, clinical registry).

The datasets used for development and testing were from the Kaiser Permanente Northern California (KPNC) health system. The dataset includes matched administrative claims and electronic health record (EHR) data for index acute care admission.

1.3. What are the dates of the data used in testing?

For initial measure development and risk variable selection we used a hybrid dataset (from KPNC) of discharges from acute care hospitals between January 2010 and December 2014. To re-specify the measure in ICD-10-coded claims, we used data from KPNC with discharges from acute care hospitals between October 1, 2015 and June 30, 2017. See section 1.7 for additional details.

1.4. What levels of analysis were tested? (testing must be provided for all the levels specified and intended for measure implementation, e.g., individual clinician, hospital, health plan)

Measure Specified to Measure Performance of: (must be consistent with levels entered in item S.20)	Measure Tested at Level of:
<input type="checkbox"/> individual clinician	<input type="checkbox"/> individual clinician
<input type="checkbox"/> group/practice	<input type="checkbox"/> group/practice
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> hospital/facility/agency	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> hospital/facility/agency
<input type="checkbox"/> health plan	<input type="checkbox"/> health plan
<input type="checkbox"/> other: Click here to describe	<input type="checkbox"/> other: Click here to describe

1.5. How many and which measured entities were included in the testing and analysis (by level of analysis and data source)? (identify the number and descriptive characteristics of measured entities included in the analysis (e.g., size, location, type); if a sample was used, describe how entities were selected for inclusion in the sample)

For this measure, hospitals are the measured entities.

1.6. How many and which patients were included in the testing and analysis (by level of analysis and data source)? (identify the number and descriptive characteristics of patients included in the analysis (e.g., age, sex, race, diagnosis); if a sample was used, describe how patients were selected for inclusion in the sample)

The number of admissions/patients varies by testing type; see Section 1.7 for details.

1.7. If there are differences in the data or sample used for different aspects of testing (e.g., reliability, validity, exclusions, risk adjustment), identify how the data or sample are different for each aspect of testing reported below.

Dataset	Description of Dataset	Use and Section in the Testing Attachment
Dataset #1: Clinical Hybrid Dataset (Development; ICD-9)	<p>Kaiser Permanente Northern California matched administrative claims and electronic health record (EHR) data, discharge dates between January 1st, 2010 – December 31st, 2014.</p> <p>Number of hospitals: 22</p> <p>Total number of admissions (prior to inclusions and exclusions) = 1,291,592.</p> <p>Total number of admissions (after inclusions and exclusions): 349,633</p> <p>Admissions by Service-Line Division</p> <p>Non-Surgical Divisions</p> <p>Cancer: 5764</p> <p>Cardiac: 57090</p> <p>Gastrointestinal: 34366</p> <p>Infectious Disease: 52627</p> <p>Neurology: 19425</p> <p>Orthopedics: 11497</p> <p>Pulmonary: 25057</p> <p>Renal: 12116</p> <p>Surgical Divisions</p> <p>Cancer: 15506</p> <p>Cardiothoracic: 7800</p> <p>Surgery: 34159</p> <p>Orthopedics: 74226</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial measure development in ICD-9 • Section 2b3.3a Identification and selection of risk-adjustment variables
Dataset #2: Clinical Hybrid Re-specification Dataset (Testing, ICD-10)	<p>For measure testing, we used a dataset (Dataset 2) provided by Kaiser Permanente of Northern California. The dataset contained merged inpatient claims with clinical data elements derived from patients' electronic health records (EHRs). This health system uses an Epic EHR system. The merged data were provided for all patients discharged from any of their 21</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 2b1 Data Element & Measure Score Validity • Section 2b2 Testing of Measure Exclusion • Section 2b3.3a Identification and

	<p>acute care hospitals from October 1, 2015 through December 30, 2016.</p> <p>Number of Hospitals = 21</p> <p>Patient Descriptive Characteristics: mean age = 70.7; standard deviation = 11.5</p> <p>The number of index admissions is listed by service-line division.</p> <p>Total: 342,036</p> <p><u>Non-Surgical</u></p> <p>Cardiac: 16,845</p> <p>Gastrointestinal: 9,854</p> <p>Infectious Disease: 16,190</p> <p>Pulmonary: 7,280</p> <p>Renal: 4,063</p> <p>Orthopedic: 3,512</p> <p>Other Conditions (non-surgical): 12,827</p> <p>Neurology: 5,113</p> <p><u>Surgical</u></p> <p>General: 9,141</p>	<p>selection of risk-adjustment variables</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 2b3.6 Statistical model discrimination statistics • Section 2b3.7 Risk model calibration statistics
Dataset #3 Hybrid Split-Sample Dataset	<p>For the split-sample reliability test, we used the Kaiser Permanente Northern California matched administrative inpatient claims and electronic health record (EHR) data, discharge dates between October 1, 2015 and December 31, 2016.</p> <p>Number of hospitals: 21</p> <p>Total admissions (after inclusions and exclusions): 84,825</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 2a2.3 Reliability Testing
Dataset #4: Claims-only Re-specification Dataset (ICD-10)	<p>Because we were limited to the use of a small dataset from a single health system for the development of the hybrid HWM measure, any results from analysis of social risk factors in this dataset would not be representative of the nation as a whole. Therefore, we provide the results of analysis of social risk factors from the claims-based measure in this application. The hybrid HWM uses the same concept, cohort and outcome and claims-based risk adjustment variables as the claims-only measure. There is no conceptual reason to believe that the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 2b1.2 Validity Testing • Section 2b2.2 Statistical Results from Testing Exclusions • Sections 2b3.3a Selection of Social Risk Factors

	<p>results from the claims-only measure would be significantly dissimilar to results from the hybrid measure.</p> <p>For similar reasons we use the data from the claims-only measure for external validity testing of the measure score. However, the measure Technical Expert Panel did assess measure score face validity for the hybrid HWM measure independently.</p> <p>Dataset #4 contains a full year of admission data from July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017, with 12 months of history, for the service-line divisions and risk variables. The total number of admissions prior to inclusions and exclusions in this cohort was 10,069,004. More specifically, we constructed an administrative dataset using:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An index dataset that contains administrative inpatient hospitalization data, enrollment data, and post-discharge mortality status for Medicare FFS beneficiaries hospitalized from July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017. 2. A history dataset that includes inpatient hospitalization data on each patient for the 12 months prior to the index admission; this was used for case-mix risk adjustment. 3. Enrollment and mortality status were obtained from the EDB, which contains beneficiary demographic, benefit, coverage, and vital status information. The EDB is also used to obtain hospice enrollment data between July 2016 to June 2017, which identified patients for whom mortality outcome was not a reasonable signal of care quality. <p>Number of Hospitals = 4,692</p> <p>Patient Descriptive Characteristics: mean age = 77.5; standard deviation = 7.9</p> <p>The number of index admissions (the cohort) was 6,514,038 following application of the inclusion criteria.</p> <p>The final study cohort was 4,335,530 following the application of the exclusion criteria.</p> <p>The cohort shown by service-line division:</p> <p>Non-Surgical</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 2b3.4b Testing of Social Risk Factors • 2b4. Identification of Statistically Significant and Meaningful Differences in Performance
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	Cancer: 35,143 Cardiac: 538,655 Gastrointestinal: 322,816 Infectious Disease: 562,168 Pulmonary: 485,122 Renal: 332,176 Orthopedic: 133,485 Neurology: 231,629 Other Conditions (non-surgical): 402,925 Surgical Cardiothoracic: 133,090 General: 206,256 Orthopedics: 677,336 Cancer: 86,062 Neurosurgery: 31,066 Other surgical: 157,601	
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1.8 What were the social risk factors that were available and analyzed? For example, patient-reported data (e.g., income, education, language), proxy variables when social risk data are not collected from each patient (e.g. census tract), or patient community characteristics (e.g. percent vacant housing, crime rate) which do not have to be a proxy for patient-level data.

The impact of socioeconomic factors was not directly tested in the Hybrid HWM measure due to lack of availability of EHR data from a nationally representative set of hospitals with patients who represent the full spectrum of socioeconomic status. Instead, we report results of testing done in the claims-only HWM measure, submitted for endorsement in the same cycle. Because of the homology between the two measures, there is no reason to suspect that the results of analyses done for the claims-only measure would differ in any significant way from results of analyses for a nationally representative hybrid measure.

As detailed below and in section 2b3.4b, we considered a patient-level sociodemographic status (SDS) variable (Medicare-Medicaid dual-eligibility status) and a composite measure (the AHRQ-validated Socioeconomic Status [SES] index score).

We selected social risk factors variables to analyze after reviewing the literature and examining available national data sources. In selecting variables, our intent was to be responsive to the National Quality Forum (NQF) guidelines for measure developers and the findings of recent work funded by the IMPACT Act [1,2]. Our approach was to examine patient-level indicators both SES that are reliably available for all Medicare beneficiaries and linkable to claims data and to select those that have established validity.

The SES variables that we examined are:

(1) Dual-eligible status

(2) AHRQ-validated SES Index score (summarizing the information from the following variables: percentage of people in the labor force who are unemployed, percentage of people living below poverty level, median household income, median value of owner-occupied dwellings, percentage of people ≥25 years of age with less than a 12th-grade education, percentage of people ≥25 years of age completing ≥4 years of college, and percentage of households that average ≥1 people per room)

Similarly, we recognize that Medicare-Medicaid dual eligibility has limitations as a proxy for patients' income or assets because it does not provide a range of results and is only a dichotomous measure. However, the eligibility threshold for over 65-year-old Medicare patients is valuable, as it considers both income and assets and is consistently applied across states. Additionally, patients' dual eligibility for Medicare and Medicaid is an indicator whose data are readily available for use. For the dual-eligible variable, there is a body of literature demonstrating differential health care and health outcomes among beneficiaries, indicating that these variables, while not ideal, allow us to examine some of the pathways of interest [1].

Finally, we selected the AHRQ-validated SES Index score because it is a well-validated variable that describes the average SES of people living in defined geographic areas [3]. Its value as a proxy for patient-level information is dependent on having the most granular-level data with respect to communities that patients live in. We used data from the American Community Survey to create AHRQ SES Index scores at the census block group level and then mapped them to 9-digit ZIP codes via vendor software. The patient-level Medicare FFS claims data were then linked to the AHRQ SES Index scores by patients' ZIP codes. Given the variation in cost of living across the country, we adjusted the median income and median property value components of the AHRQ SES Index by regional price parity values published by the Bureau of Economic Analysis. This provided a better marker of low-SES neighborhoods.

References

1. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Planning and Evaluation. Report to Congress: Social Risk factors and Performance Under Medicare's Value-based Payment Programs. 2016; <https://aspe.hhs.gov/pdf-report/report-congress-social-risk-factors-and-performance-under-medicare-value-based-purchasing-programs>. Accessed November 10, 2017.
2. National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM); Accounting for Social Risk Factors in Medicare Payment: Data. Washington DC: National Academies Press; 2016.
3. Bonito A, Bann C, Eicheldinger C, et al. Creation of new race-ethnicity codes and socioeconomic status (SES) indicators for Medicare beneficiaries. Final report, sub-task. 2008; 2.

2a2. RELIABILITY TESTING

Note: If accuracy/correctness (validity) of data elements was empirically tested, separate reliability testing of data elements is not required – in 2a2.1 check critical data elements; in 2a2.2 enter “see section 2b2 for validity testing of data elements”; and skip 2a2.3 and 2a2.4.

2a2.1. What level of reliability testing was conducted? (may be one or both levels)

☒ **Critical data elements used in the measure** (e.g., inter-abstractor reliability; data element reliability must address ALL critical data elements)

☒ **Performance measure score** (e.g., signal-to-noise analysis)

2a2.2. For each level checked above, describe the method of reliability testing and what it tests (*describe the steps—do not just name a method; what type of error does it test; what statistical analysis was used*)

Measure Score Reliability

The reliability of a measurement is the degree to which repeated measurements of the same entity agree with each other. For measures of hospital performance, the measured entity is naturally the hospital, and reliability is the extent to which repeated measurements of the same hospital give similar results. In line with this thinking, our approach to assessing reliability is to consider the extent to which assessments of a hospital using different but randomly selected subsets of patients produces similar measures of hospital performance. That is, we take a "split sample" approach in which hospital performance is measured once using a random subset of patients, then measured again using a second random subset exclusive of the first. We then compare the agreement between the two resulting performance measures across hospitals [1].

We estimated the overall measure score reliability by calculating the intra-class correlation coefficient (ICC) using a split-sample method. This form of measure reliability testing evaluates, on a whole, how reliable measure results are across all facilities. Dataset 3 was used to calculate split-sample reliability. Admissions were randomly and evenly split into the two split samples within each individual hospital (15 months of combined data). For each sample, we fit a hierarchical generalized linear model for each service-line division and then aggregate the results into an overall risk-standardized mortality rate (RSMR). That is, each hospital will have a RSMR in each split sample. The ICC evaluates the agreement between the risk-standardized mortality rates (RSMR) calculated in the two randomly split samples. The ICC estimated was ICC [2, 1], described in Shrout and Fleiss [2], and assessed using conventional standards [3].

We do not provide signal-to-noise reliability for the overall RSMR score because the signal-to-noise calculation should be based on a statistical model [4]; the measure score (RSMR) of the HWM measure is a combined score that is not calculated from a single statistical model.

References

1. Rousson V, Gasser T, Seifert B. Assessing intrarater, interrater and test–retest reliability of continuous measurements. *Statistics in Medicine* 2002;21:3431-3446.
2. Shrout P, Fleiss J. Intraclass correlations: uses in assessing rater reliability. *Psychological Bulletin* 1979;86:420-428.
3. Landis J, Koch G, The measurement of observer agreement for categorical data. *Biometrics* 1977;33:159-174.
4. Adams J., The reliability of provider profiling: A tutorial. RAND Health, 2009.
https://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/technical_reports/2009/RAND_TR653.pdf; accessed on January 4, 2019

2a2.3. For each level of testing checked above, what were the statistical results from reliability testing? (*e.g., percent agreement and kappa for the critical data elements; distribution of reliability statistics from a signal-to-noise analysis*)

Measure Score Reliability

As a metric of agreement, we calculated the ICC [1,2]. To calculate the ICC, we used Dataset 3. In total, 84,825 admissions and 21 hospitals were included in the analysis, using 15 months of data. The agreement between the two independent assessments of the RSMR for each hospital was 0.6826, and the adjusted ICC (which estimates the ICC if we had been able to use one full year of data in each split sample) [3,4], is 0.7748 (Table 1). This adjusted ICC is considered "substantial" reliability, according to conventional standards [1].

Table 1: Hybrid HWM split-sample reliability (15 months of data total)

Statistic	Split-sample reliability (all hospitals)
Number of hospitals	21
ICC [2,1]	0.6826
Adjusted ICC [2,1]	0.7748

References

1. Landis J, Koch G. The measurement of observer agreement for categorical data, Biometrics 1977;33:159-174.
2. Shrout P, Fleiss J. Intraclass correlations: uses in assessing rater reliability. Psychological Bulletin 1979;86:420-428.
3. Brown W. (1910). Some experimental results in the correlation of mental abilities. British Journal of Psychology, 3, 296–322.
4. Spearman, Charles, C. (1910). Correlation calculated from faulty data. British Journal of Psychology, 3, 271–295.

2a2.4 What is your interpretation of the results in terms of demonstrating reliability? (i.e., what do the results mean and what are the norms for the test conducted?)

The ICC score of 0.7748 demonstrates “substantial” agreement across the split sample, indicating that the measure score results are a measure of true provider variation rather than random error.

The results show that this measure demonstrates sufficient reliability; the results are in line with other NQF-endorsed measures that are used in public reporting.

Our interpretation of these results is based on the standards established by Landis and Koch (1977) [1]:

< 0 – Less than chance agreement;

0 – 0.2 Slight agreement;

0.21 – 0.39 Fair agreement;

0.4 – 0.59 Moderate agreement;

0.6 – 0.79 Substantial agreement;

0.8 – 0.99 Almost Perfect agreement; and

1 Perfect agreement

References

1. Landis J, Koch G. The measurement of observer agreement for categorical data, Biometrics 1977;33:159-174.

2b1. VALIDITY TESTING

2b1.1. What level of validity testing was conducted? (may be one or both levels)

☐ Critical data elements (data element validity must address ALL critical data elements)

☒ **Performance measure score**

☒ **Empirical validity testing**

☒ **Systematic assessment of face validity of performance measure score** as an indicator of quality or resource use (*i.e., is an accurate reflection of performance on quality or resource use and can distinguish good from poor performance*) **NOTE:** Empirical validity testing is expected at time of maintenance review; if not possible, justification is required.

2b1.2. For each level of testing checked above, describe the method of validity testing and what it tests

(*describe the steps—do not just name a method; what was tested, e.g., accuracy of data elements compared to authoritative source, relationship to another measure as expected; what statistical analysis was used*)

Validation Against Other Hospital-Level Quality Measures

The external empiric validity was not directly tested in the Hybrid HWM measure due to lack of availability of EHR data from a nationally representative set of hospitals. Instead, we report results of testing done in the claims-only HWM measure. Because of the homology between the two measures, there is no reason to suspect that the results of analyses done for the claims-only measure would differ in any significant way from results of analyses for a nationally representative hybrid measure.

In order to test the validity of the HWM measure score, we examined whether better performance on the claims-only HWM measure was related to better performance for other relevant structural and outcome measures. However, there are multiple challenges associated with this approach:

1. There are many measures that use a variety of criteria to define a high performing hospital, including: adherence to core processes of care, complications and safety measures, and patient satisfaction.
2. Together with our Technical Workgroup, which consists of nationally recognized experts in measure development, as well as other measurement experts, we have concluded that there is no single recognized and accepted “gold standard” measure that specifically measures factors most relevant to such a broad measure as hospital-wide mortality. Our approach was to select three separate assessments against which we could compare the measure score with the hypothesis that a trend toward correlation with these external assessments would support a conclusion of high measure score validity.

After reviewing available measures, we selected the following three to use for validity testing.

1. Nurse-to-bed ratio: Several studies have found that higher levels of nurse staffing are associated with improved patient outcomes and lower mortality rates. [1-4]. We used a nurse-to-bed ratio calculated using two fields from the American Hospital Association’s (AHA) annual survey. The AHA surveys all hospitals in the United States and the response rate averages 85–95 percent annually [5], covering about 6,000 hospitals. Staffing is measured as the numbers of full-time and part-time RNs, and LPNs. Within the American Hospital Associations annual survey from 2016, we used the fields “FTEN” and “HOSPBD”, which are self- reported fields that are defined in the AHA data dictionary as: number of reported full-time registered nurse and number of hospital beds.

2. Hospital Star Rating mortality group score: CMS’s Overall Hospital Star Rating assesses hospitals’ overall performance (expressed on *Hospital Compare* graphically, as stars) based on a weighted average of group scores from different domains of quality (mortality, readmissions, safety, patient experience, imaging, effectiveness of care, timeliness of care). The mortality group is comprised of the mortality measures that are publicly reported on hospital compare. The mortality group score is derived from a latent-variable model that identifies an underlying quality trait for that group. For the validity testing presented in this testing form, we used mortality group scores from 4581 Medicare FFS hospitals from July 2018. The full methodology for the Overall Hospital Star Rating can be found at:

<https://www.qualitynet.org/dcs/ContentServer?c=Page&pagename=QnetPublic%2FPage%2FQnetTier3&cid=1228775957165>

3. Overall Hospital Star Rating: CMS's Overall Hospital Star Rating assesses hospitals' overall performance (expressed on *Hospital Compare* graphically, as stars) based on a weighted average of "group scores" from different domains of quality (mortality, readmissions, safety, patient experience, imaging, effectiveness of care, timeliness of care). Each group has within it, measures that are reported on *Hospital Compare*. Group scores for each individual group are derived from latent-variable models that identify an underlying quality trait for each group. Group scores are combined into an overall hospital score using fixed weights; overall hospital scores are then clustered, using k-means clustering, into five groups and are assigned one-to-five stars (the hospital's Star Rating). For the validity testing presented in this testing form, we used hospital's Star Ratings from 4581 Medicare FFS hospitals from July 2018. The full methodology for the Overall Hospital Star Rating can be found at <https://www.qualitynet.org/dcs/ContentServer?c=Page&pagename=QnetPublic%2FPage%2FQnetTier3&cid=1228775957165>.

We examined the relationship of performance on the claims only measure scores (RSMR) with each of the three external measures of hospital quality. For the external measures, the comparison was against performance within quartiles for nurse-to-bed ratio and mortality group score, or in the case of Star Ratings, to the Star Rating category (1-5 Stars).

We also compared performance on these external measures with categories of performance on the HWM measure by determining "outliers" of performance for the RSMR. Specifically, we identified outliers by estimating an interval estimate (similar to a confidence interval) around each hospital score and identified those facilities that had a 95% interval estimate entirely above or entirely below the national average. We then assigned scores to one of three performance categories: 1) "no different than national average," 2) "better than the national average," or 3) "worse than the national average." – with 95% confidence. Hospitals categorized as outliers ("better" or "worse" than national average) on the HWM measure were identified within the quartiles of performance on the comparator measure (see Figures 1, 2, and 3 in section 2b1.3).

Face Validity of the Hybrid measure as Determined by the TEP

We systematically assessed the face validity of the hybrid hospital-wide mortality measure score as an indicator of quality by confidentially soliciting the TEP members' agreement with the following statement via an online survey following the final TEP meeting: "The risk-standardized mortality rates obtained from the hybrid hospital-wide mortality measure as specified can be used to distinguish between better and worse quality facilities." The survey offered participants response options on a six-point scale (1=Strongly Disagree, 2=Moderately Disagree, 3=Somewhat Disagree, 4=Somewhat Agree, 5= Moderately Agree, and 6=Strongly Agree).

TEP members:

Jeanne Black, PhD, MBA
Manager of Health Policy and Program Evaluation
Cedars-Sinai Health System

John Bott, MBA, MS
Independent Consultant

Roger Dmochowski, MD, MMHC, FACS
Executive Medical Director of Quality, Safety, and Risk
Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Richard Dutton, MD, MBA
Chief Quality Officer
United States Anesthesia Partners

Gaye Hyre
Patient/Family Caregiver Representative
CT State Innovation Model for Healthcare Equity and Access Council Member

Irene Katzan, MD, MS
Director, Neurological Institute for Outcomes Research and Evaluation
Cleveland Clinic

Brenda Matti-Orozco, MD, FACP
Chief of Division of General Internal Medicine and Palliative Medicine
Hospice Medical Director
Morristown Medical Center and Atlantic Home Care & Hospice

Michelle Beck
Consumer
University of Maryland
Upper Chesapeake Medical Center

Use of Established Measure Development Guidelines:

We developed this measure in consultation with national guidelines for publicly reported outcome measures, with outside experts, and with the public. The measure is consistent with the technical approach to outcome measurement set forth in NQF guidance for outcome measures, CMS MMS guidance, and the guidance articulated in the American Heart Association scientific statement, “Standards for Statistical Models Used for Public Reporting of Health Outcomes” (Krumholz, Brindis, et al. 2006; NQF 2010).

References

1. Aiken LH, Clarke SF, Sloane DM, Sochalski J, Silber JH. Hospital Nurse Staffing and Patient Mortality, Nurse Burnout, and Job Dissatisfaction. *Journal of the American Medical Association*. 2002;288(16):1987–93.
2. American Hospital Association (AHA) The AHA Annual Survey Database Fiscal Year 1997 Documentation. Chicago: Health Forum; 1999.
3. Griffiths P, Ball J, Murrells T, et al Registered nurse, healthcare support worker, medical staffing levels and mortality in English hospital trusts: a cross-sectional study *BMJ Open* 2016;6:e008751. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2015-008751
4. Needleman J, Buerhaus PI, Mattke S, Stewart M, Zelevinsky K. Nurse-Staffing Levels and The Quality of Care in Hospitals. *New England Journal of Medicine*. 2002;346:1719–22.
5. Needleman J., Buerhaus P., Pankratz V.S., Leibson C.L., Stevens S.R., Harris M. Nurse staffing and inpatient hospital mortality. *N. Engl. J. Med*. 2011;364:1037–1045. doi: 10.1056/NEJMsa1001025.

2b1.3. What were the statistical results from validity testing? (e.g., correlation; t-test)

Empiric Validity Testing

The external empiric validity was not directly tested in the Hybrid HWM measure due to lack of availability of EHR data from a nationally representative set of hospitals. Instead, we report results of testing done in the

claims-only HWM measure. Because of the homology between the two measures, there is no reason to suspect that the results of analyses done for the claims-only measure would differ in any significant way from results of analyses for a nationally representative hybrid measure. We present the results from the claims-only HWM measure below.

To examine the external validity of the HWM measure results, we explored the relationship of performance on the HWM claims-only measure scores (overall risk-adjusted hospital-wide mortality rate or RSMR) with each of the three external measures of hospital quality: nurse-to-bed ratio, mortality group score of Star Rating, and Overall Star Rating.

For each external measure of quality, the comparison showed a trend toward better performance on the HWM measure with better performance on the comparator measure. For example, in Figure 1, when comparing the claims-only HWM measure to the nurse to bed ratio, as the number of nurses per bed increases (more nurses in the hospital) across quartiles of nurse-to-bed ratio (from left to right on the graph), the median overall HWM mortality rate is lower (better). Likewise, in Figure 2, better performance on the HWM measure is associated with better Star Rating mortality group scores across quartiles of mortality group score performance. Finally, in Figure 3, we show that HWM performance improves across the Star Rating category in the expected direction: HWM scores are better (lower) as the Star Rating category improves (increases from 1, to 5 Stars).

Within the graphs, we also overlay “better” and “worse” outliers (95% confidence interval, as described in 2b1.2) on the HWM measure, with performance on the external measure. The overlay results are consistent with the trend toward better performance on the HWM measure with better performance on the quality measure; there are more high outliers (shown in total as “better” at the bottom of the graph, and as blue squares in the graph) with higher performance for each comparator measure (moving left to right on the graphs below); there are also fewer “worse” outliers (shown in total as “worse” at the bottom of the graph, and as red triangles in the graph). The inverse is also observed: fewer “better” outliers and more “worse” outliers are present in quartiles of worse performance on the comparator measure.

For example, in Figure 1 below, which compares RSMR to nurse-to-bed ratio, there are:

- 19 HWM “better than national average” outliers in the third quartile (and 5 “worse” outliers)
- 49 HWM “better” outliers in the fourth quartile (and zero “worse” outliers)

In addition, in Figure 2, which compares RSMR to mortality group score, there are:

- 96 HWM “better than national average” outliers (and zero “worse” outliers) in the fourth (best performing) quartile
- 13 “worse than national average” (and zero “better”) outliers in the first (worst performing) quartile.

A similar relationship can be seen in Figure 3, in comparison to the Overall Hospital Star Rating.

Figure 1: RSMR Relationship to Nurse-to-Bed Ratio

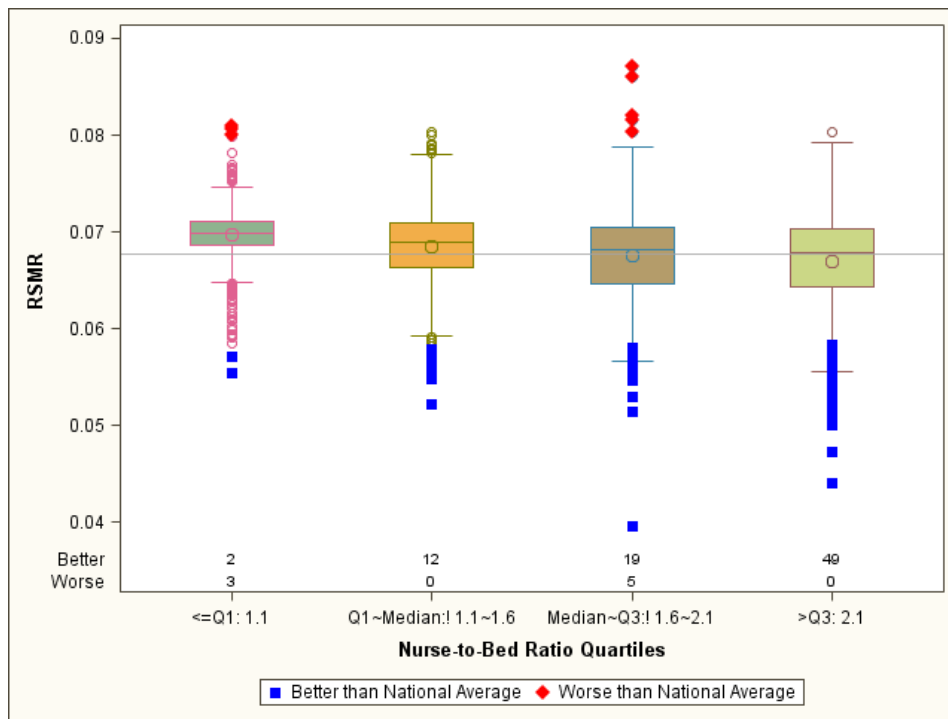


Figure 2: RSMR Relationship to Star Ratings Mortality Group Score

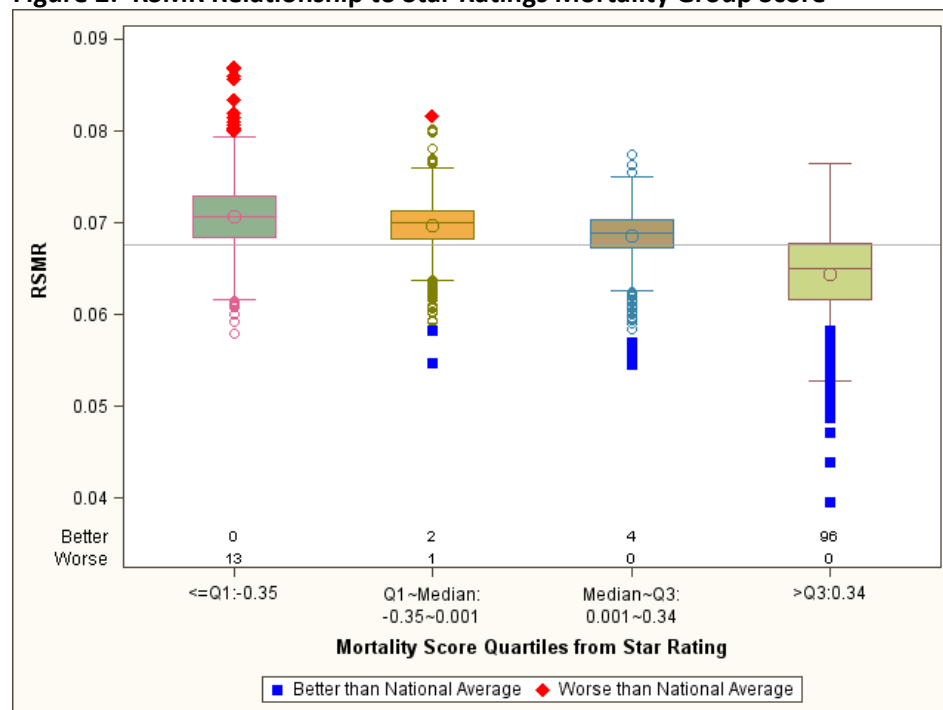
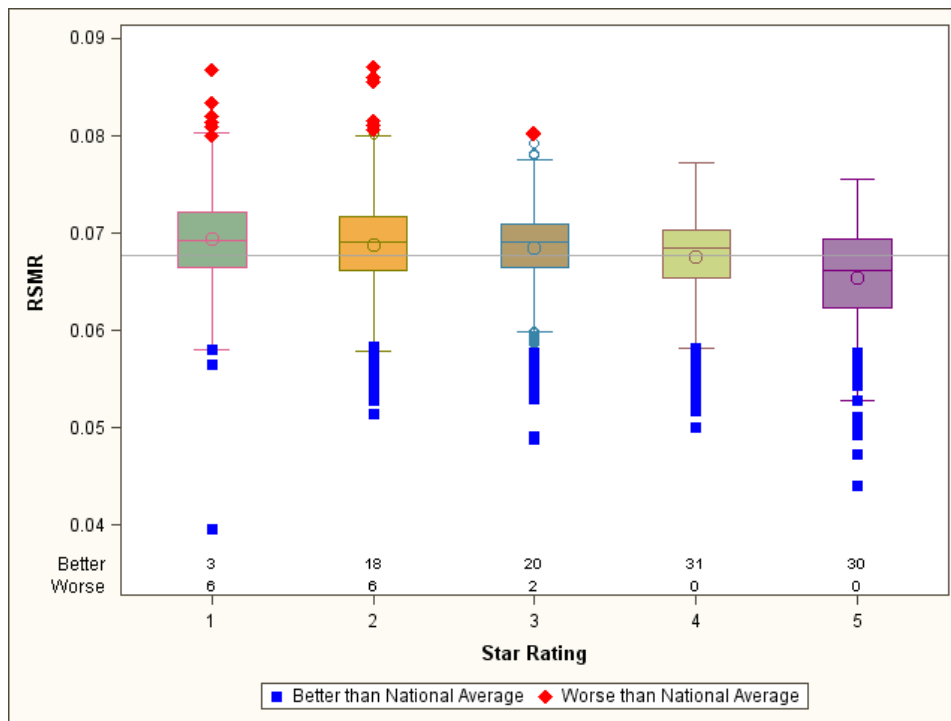


Figure 3: RSMR Relationship to Overall Star Rating



Validity of the Hybrid HWM measure as assessed by the TEP

A total of 6 TEP members completed the face validity survey. Of the 6 respondents, 5 respondents (83%) indicated that they somewhat, moderately, or strongly agreed and 1 somewhat disagreed with the following statement: “The risk-standardized mortality rates obtained from the hybrid hospital-wide mortality measure as specified can be used to distinguish between better and worse quality facilities.”

2b1.4. What is your interpretation of the results in terms of demonstrating validity? (i.e., what do the results mean and what are the norms for the test conducted?)

The results above show that the HWM measure (as tested using the claims-only HWM measure) agrees with external measures of quality. There is a trend in the expected direction that overlaps and matches all three external measures of quality, which provides external support for measure score validity.

In addition, the “better” and “worse” outliers for HWM align with performance on each external measure of quality. In other words, there are a higher proportion of HWM “better” performers in higher performing categories for each measure. The reverse is also true for two of the three comparator measures: there are more “worse” HWM outliers as you move left on the graph (toward worse performance on the external measure).

Please note that, based on our discussions with our Technical Workgroup and with other experts, we concluded that there is no single analysis that is sufficient to validate the measure because there is no gold standard exists for the validation of a hospital-wide quality measure. With this limitation in mind, we used the three empiric external analyses to demonstrate a trend of validity using different metrics.

In addition, the Overall Star Rating includes quality measures that are much broader than the hospital-wide Mortality Measure, such as patient experience. This is consistent with the stronger relationship that can be seen between HWM and the Star Rating mortality measure group score (Figure 2).

Survey results from the TEP indicated relatively high agreement (83%) regarding the face validity of the hybrid HWM measure.

2b2. EXCLUSIONS ANALYSIS

NA ☐ no exclusions — [skip to section 2b3](#)

2b2.1. Describe the method of testing exclusions and what it tests (*describe the steps—do not just name a method; what was tested, e.g., whether exclusions affect overall performance scores; what statistical analysis was used*)

All exclusions were determined by careful clinical review and have been made based on clinically relevant decisions and to ensure accurate calculation of the measure. To ascertain impact of exclusions on the cohort, we examined overall frequencies and proportions of the total cohort excluded for each exclusion criterion. Rationales for the exclusions are detailed in Section S.8 of the Submission/Intent to Submit form (Denominator Exclusions).

2b2.2. What were the statistical results from testing exclusions? (*include overall number and percentage of individuals excluded, frequency distribution of exclusions across measured entities, and impact on performance measure scores*)

Because claims data alone are used to define the measure cohort exclusions, we present results from the nationally representative set of hospitals in the claims-only measure rather than from the sample of hospitals for the hybrid measure. These results better reflect the impact of exclusions in the broader set of the nation's hospitals serving Medicare beneficiaries.

Applying our inclusion criteria (See Sections S.6 of the Intent to Submit form – claims-only HWM measure) resulted in an initial cohort of 6,514,038. We then applied the following exclusion criteria (see the Intent to Submit Form, Sections S.8 and S.9, for exclusion rationale) with the following number and percent of excluded admissions (referenced as a percent of the initial cohort):

Discharged against medical advice: 28,739 (0.44%)

Inconsistent or unknown vital status or other unreliable data: 87 (0.0013%)

Primarily treated for crush injury, spinal cord injury, intracranial injury, or burns: 61,519 (0.94%)

Fewer than 100 admissions in a CCS within a division: 13,597 (0.21%)

Given the few cases affected, we did not examine the distribution of admissions across hospitals or the effect of the exclusion on measure scores.

Note that our final cohort is 4.3 million, due to a processing step that requires the random selection of a single admission for patients with multiple admissions. Random selection ensures that providers are not penalized for a “last” admission during the measurement period; selecting the last admission would not be as accurate a reflection of the risk of death as random selection, as the last admission is inherently associated with a higher

mortality risk. Random selection is also used in CMS's condition-specific mortality measures. Note that random selection reduces the number of admissions, but does not exclude any patients from the measure.

2b2.3. What is your interpretation of the results in terms of demonstrating that exclusions are needed to prevent unfair distortion of performance results? (*i.e., the value outweighs the burden of increased data collection and analysis.* **Note: If patient preference is an exclusion, the measure must be specified so that the effect on the performance score is transparent, e.g., scores with and without exclusion**)

The exclusions for this measure are narrowly targeted. The largest exclusion (0.94% of admissions) is clinically defined and reflects the inability to adequately risk adjust given that trauma is unevenly distributed across hospitals. In total, exclusions remove a small number (about 1.4%) of admissions.

2b3. RISK ADJUSTMENT/STRATIFICATION FOR OUTCOME OR RESOURCE USE MEASURES

If not an intermediate or health outcome, or PRO-PM, or resource use measure, skip to section [2b4](#).

2b3.1. What method of controlling for differences in case mix is used?

- ☐ No risk adjustment or stratification
- ☒ **Statistical risk model with [21](#) risk factors**
- ☐ Stratification by [Click here to enter number of categories](#) **risk categories**
- ☐ Other, [Click here to enter description](#)

2b3.1.1 If using a statistical risk model, provide detailed risk model specifications, including the risk model method, risk factors, coefficients, equations, codes with descriptors, and definitions.

Risk Model:

The method estimates a separate hierarchical logistic regression model for each service-line division. In order to obtain the variance and interval estimates, the hierarchical model is fit under the Bayesian framework along with the Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) technique. Details of the risk model can be found in the data dictionary, tab "HWM_Statistical Approach), as well as in the claims-only HWM technical report, in section 4.6.1, which is attached to this application.

Risk Factors:

The goal of risk adjustment is to account for differences across hospitals in patient demographic and clinical characteristics that might be related to the outcome but are unrelated to quality of care. Risk adjustment for this measure was complicated by the fact that it includes many different discharge condition categories, as well as patients undergoing surgical procedures. Therefore, this measure adjusts for both case mix differences (clinical status of the patient on admission, accounted for by adjusting for comorbidities and diagnoses present on admission as well as clinical data from hospital EHRs) and service mix differences (the types of conditions/procedures cared for by the hospital, accounted for by adjusting for the discharge condition category).

(1) Case-mix adjustment: Comorbid Risk Factors (defined by CMS Condition Categories – CCs):

- age
- pneumonia (CC 114-116)
- dialysis or severed chronic kidney disease (CC 134, 136, 137)
- acute or unspecified renal failure (CC 135, 140)
- poisonings and allergic and inflammatory reactions (CC 175)
- minor symptoms, signs, findings (CC 179)

- protein-calorie malnutrition (CC 21)
- disorders of fluid/electrolyte/acid-base balance (CC 24)
- disorders of lipid metabolism (CC 25)
- liver failure (CC 27, 30)
- other GI disorders (CC 34, 35, 37, 38)
- other musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders (CC 44, 45)
- hematologic or immunity disorders (CC 46-48)
- dementia and other nonpsychotic organic brain syndromes (CC 51-53)
- other infectious diseases (CC 7)
- metastatic & severe cancers (CC 8, 9)
- coma/brain compression/ anoxic injury and severe head injury (CC 80, 166)
- respiratory failure, respirator dependence, shock (CC 82-84)
- congestive heart failure (CC 85)
- hypertension and hypertensive heart disease (CC 94, 95)

Primary and secondary diagnoses codes identified as potential complication of care (see tab HWM_Complications of the data dictionary) with an associated “present on admission” code are kept in the risk model; any potential complication of care without an associated “present on admission” code are removed from the risk model under the assumption that it represented a complication of care.

Comorbid risk variables are the same for each of the 15 divisions, but coefficients for each comorbid risk factor vary by division; see tab HWM_Risk_Var_ParEst for the coefficients for each comorbid risk factor, by division.

Electronic Health record-based variables:

The **electronic clinical risk variables** reflect a patient’s clinical status upon arrival to the hospital as the first captured value or first set of vital signs and laboratory results. As candidates, the core clinical data elements (CCDE) must be consistently captured, captured with a standard definition, and entered into the electronic health record in a structured field and can be feasibly extracted. For risk variable selection, we sought clinical appropriateness and parsimony to minimize hospital burden.

The selected CCDE for electronic case-mix risk adjustment are as follows:

- Heart rate (linear)
- Oxygen saturation (linear)
- Systolic blood pressure (splined, knot at 140)
- Temperature (linear)
- Bicarbonate (splined, knot at 26)
- Creatinine (linear, winsorized at 5)
- Hemoglobin (linear)
- Platelet (splined, knot at 200)
- Sodium (splined, knot at 140)
- White blood count (splined, knot at 7.0)

(2) Risk factors:

Service-Line risk adjustment:

As described in **section 5.7** of the intent to submit form, for the cohort we use the AHRQ CCS grouper to group all ICD-10 principal discharge diagnoses into clinically coherent categories.

For risk adjustment, as described in section **2b3.3a.**, for all AHRQ principal discharge diagnosis code CCSs, we include a discharge diagnosis-specific indicator in the model. This ensures that the principal discharge diagnosis for each patient is also included in the risk model, in addition to the comorbid claims-based and EHR variables described above.

Discharge diagnosis categories differ in their baseline mortality risks and hospitals will differ in their relative distribution of these discharge diagnosis categories (service mix) within each division. Therefore, adjusting for principal discharge diagnosis categories levels the playing field across hospitals with different service mixes.

Note that, due to the large number of CCS category codes that are represented in the “Other”

See the data dictionary for the CCSs (tabs HWM Non-SurgCohortDiv CCS and HWM SurgicalCohortDiv CCS) that comprise each of the divisions in this measure, and the parameter estimates for the different CCS categories within each of the 15 divisions (HWM_Risk_Var_ParEst). Also see tab “HWM_CCS_Modifications” for the 20 CCSs that were modified by our clinical consensus process, defined in section **2b3.3a**.

2b3.2. If an outcome or resource use component measure is not risk adjusted or stratified, provide rationale and analyses to demonstrate that controlling for differences in patient characteristics (case mix) is not needed to achieve fair comparisons across measured entities.

Not applicable. This measure is not stratified.

2b3.3a. Describe the conceptual/clinical and statistical methods and criteria used to select patient factors (clinical factors or social risk factors) used in the statistical risk model or for stratification by risk (e.g., potential factors identified in the literature and/or expert panel; regression analysis; statistical significance of $p < 0.10$; correlation of x or higher; patient factors should be present at the start of care) Also discuss any “ordering” of risk factor inclusion; for example, are social risk factors added after all clinical factors?

Selecting Risk Variables

Candidate Comorbid Risk Variables

Our goal is to develop parsimonious models that include clinically relevant variables strongly associated with the risk of mortality in the 30 days following an index admission. For candidate variable selection, using the development sample we started with the CMS Condition Categories (CC)s grouper, used in previous CMS risk-standardized outcome measures, to group ICD-9 codes into comorbid risk adjustment variables.

To select candidate variables, a team of clinicians reviewed all CMS-CCs and combined some of these CMS-CCs into clinically coherent groups to ensure adequate case volume. Any combined CMS-CCs were combined using both clinical coherence and consistent direction of mortality risk prediction across the CMS-CC groups in the majority of the 15 divisions.

Potential Complications of Care During Hospitalization

Complications occurring during hospitalization are not comorbid illnesses and do not reflect the health status of patients upon presentation. In addition, they likely reflect hospital quality of care, and, for these reasons, should **not** be used for risk adjustment. Although adverse events occurring during hospitalization may increase the risk of mortality, including them as risk factors in a risk-adjusted model could lessen the measure’s ability to characterize the quality of care delivered by hospitals. We have previously reviewed every CMS-CC and identified those which, if they were to occur only during the index hospitalization, are more likely than not to represent potential complications rather than pre-existing comorbidities. For example: fluid, electrolyte, or base disorders; sepsis; and acute liver failure are all examples of CMS-CCs that could potentially be complications of care.

For the claims-only HWM measure, we took a two-step approach to identifying complications of care. First, we searched the secondary diagnosis codes in the index admission claim for all patients in the measure and identified the presence of any ICD-9 code associated with a CMS-CC. If these codes appeared only in the index admission claim, we flagged them because they are potential complications of care. Next, we determined if

these potential complications of care were associated with a “present on admission” code. Any potential complication of care with an associated “present on admission” code was kept in the risk model; any potential complication of care without an associated “present on admission” code was removed under the assumption that it represented a complication of care. In this way, we supplemented the existing approach to identifying potential complications of care used in CMS’s publicly reported mortality measures by incorporating “present on admission” codes. Our analyses demonstrate that a majority of hospitals currently use “present on admission” codes across a majority of conditions. Therefore, we felt that a combined approach to excluding complications of care from the risk model that used both the existing methodology and “present of admission” codes allow the measure to capture as many clinically appropriate risk variables as possible while simultaneously removing complications of care from the risk model.

Final Comorbid Risk Variable Selection

To inform variable selection, we used the development sample to create 500 bootstrap samples for each of the service-line divisions. (This analysis was performed prior to removing the divisions Other Non-Surgical Conditions and Other Surgical Procedures; therefore, this analysis was completed on 15 divisions. During ICD-10 re-specification, these divisions were added back to the measure.) For each sample, we ran a standard logistic regression model that included all candidate variables. The results were summarized to show the percentage of times that each of the candidate variables was significantly associated with 30-day mortality (at the $p \leq 0.05$ level) in the 500 bootstrap samples (for example, 90% would mean that the candidate variable was significant at $p \leq 0.05$ in 90% of the bootstrap samples). We also assessed the direction and magnitude of the regression coefficients.

We found that models containing all risk factors performed similarly to models containing a more limited set of “significant” risk factors, described below. We therefore used a fixed, common set of comorbidity variables in all of our models for simplicity and ease of implementation and analysis. We describe below the steps for variable selection.

- a. The CORE Project Team reviewed the bootstrapping results and decided to provisionally examine risk adjustment variables at or above a 90% cutoff in one of the 15 service-line division models (in other words, retain variables that were significant at the $p \leq 0.05$ level in at least 90% of the bootstrap samples for each division). We chose the 90% cutoff because this threshold has been used across other measures and produced a model with adequate discrimination.
- b. In order to develop a statistically robust and parsimonious set of comorbid risk variables, we then chose to limit the variables to those that met a 90% threshold in at least 13/15 divisions. This step resulted in the retention of 20 risk factors, including age and 19 comorbid risk variables. This resulted in C-statistics that did not change by more than 0.02 in any of the 15 divisions compared to models that contained all possible risk variables.

CCDE Risk Variable Selection

To select candidate clinical EHR variables, we began with the list currently specified of CCDE variables shown below in Table 3.

Table 3. Currently Specified CCDE Variables

Clinical Data Elements	Units of Measurement	Window for First Captured Values
Patient Characteristics		
Age	Years	---
First-Captured Vital Signs		
Diastolic Blood Pressure	mmHg	0-2 hours
Heart Rate	Beats per minute	0-2 hours
Oxygen Saturation	Percent	0-2 hours
Respiratory Rate	Breath per minute	0-2 hours
Systolic Blood Pressure	mmHg	0-2 hours
Temperature	Degrees Fahrenheit	0-2 hours
Weight	Pounds	0-24 hours
First-Captured Laboratory Results		
Anion Gap	mEq/L	0-24 hours
Bicarbonate	mmol/L	0-24 hours
BUN	mg/dL	0-24 hours
Chloride	mEq/L	0-24 hours
Creatinine	mg/dL	0-24 hours
Glucose	mg/dL	0-24 hours
Hematocrit	% red blood cells	0-24 hours
Hemoglobin	g/dL	0-24 hours
Platelet	Count	0-24 hours
Potassium	mEq/L	0-24 hours
Sodium	mEq/L	0-24 hours
WBC Count	Cells/mL	0-24 hours

First, we looked at how many admissions in our Clinical Hybrid Dataset were missing values for each CCDE. The non-surgical divisions had fewer than 10% of admissions that were missing values. However, in the surgical divisions, while vitals were missing in fewer than 10% of admissions, the laboratory result values were missing in 15% - 50% of admissions, depending upon division. For development purposes only, we imputed values for missing labs or vital signs, as described below:

For all admissions missing any vital signs and for admissions within the non-surgical divisions missing any laboratory result values, we used multiple imputation (imposing limits to ensure the imputed values were within clinical possibilities) with 5 copies of data with different imputations based on a multi-normal distribution.

For admissions within the surgical divisions missing any laboratory results, we randomly imputed a value within the normal range for that lab. For the normal ranges, see Table 3 Candidate Clinical EHR Risk Variable (CCDE) Mortality Association Modelling Approaches below. **Rationale:** Surgical patients that are missing initial labs are most likely elective surgical admissions that had the labs collected within 30 days PRIOR TO ADMISSION. It is less likely that a patient with an extremely abnormal lab value would undergo an elective surgery without having the labs checked again on admission. This approach is for development purposes only.

Second, we selected which CCDE would be the most appropriate to include in the hybrid HWM measure. We approached risk variable selection from the perspective of ensuring a parsimonious list of clinical EHR variables that would minimize hospital burden to report the data and provide face validity from a clinical perspective.

Therefore, we first sought to ensure that each candidate variable was modeled in a clinically appropriate way. For example, the laboratory value sodium has a U-shaped predictive association with mortality: Normal sodium levels are associated with a low risk of mortality, while both abnormally high and abnormally low levels are associated with an increased risk of mortality. The association between each CCDE variable and mortality

was reviewed by four clinicians and selected based on the best association. See Table 3 Candidate Clinical EHR Risk Variable (CCDE) Mortality Association Modelling Approaches for the approach used for each risk variable. In addition, we report the normal values used for imputing missing laboratory results within the surgical divisions.

Table 4. Candidate Clinical EHR Risk Variable (CCDE) Mortality Association Modelling Approaches

Candidate EHR Risk Variables	Normal Range	Modeling Approach
Age	-	Linear
Diastolic Blood Pressure	-	Splined, knot at 80
Heart Rate	-	Linear
Oxygen Saturation	-	Linear
Respiratory Rate	-	Splined, knot at 16
Systolic Blood Pressure	-	Splined, knot at 140
Temperature	-	Linear
Weight	-	Splined, knot at 180
Anion Gap	7-17	Splined, knot at 10
Bicarbonate	22-30	Splined, knot at 26
BUN	8-18	Splined, knot at 14 and 40
Chloride	96-106	Linear
Creatinine	0.5-1.2	Linear, but Winsorized at 5
Glucose	70-100	Splined, knot at 180
Hematocrit	37-52	Linear
Hemoglobin	12-18	Linear
Platelets	140-144	Splined, knot at 200
Potassium	3.3-5.0	Splined, knot at 4.0
Sodium	135-145	Splined, knot at 140
White Blood Count	4.0-10.0	Splined, knot at 7.0

Based upon this information, we selected a standard set of clinically coherent risk variables in order to ensure that each division-level risk model included key laboratory results and vital signs data (see final list of EHR risk variables above, in Section 2b3.1.1). As with prior hybrid measures that use EHR data in their risk model, we did not include risk variables if they were strongly correlated with another variable. For example, we selected systolic blood pressure but not diastolic blood pressure, as these variables were highly correlated and provide very similar risk prediction. Using a standard set of clinically selected variables produced improved c-statistics compared to the models based purely upon stepwise selection. We also tested allowing the risk variables to vary across the 15 divisions (using stepwise selection) but still forcing in clinical variables and found that the model discrimination (c-statistic) was very similar, in some cases identical, to using a standard set of variables. Therefore, we proceeded with a common set of 10 clinical risk variables plus age across all divisions for the remainder of the risk model development work.

Service-Line Adjustment

As described in section S.7 of the intent to submit form, we use the AHRQ CCS grouper to group all ICD-10 principal discharge diagnoses into clinically coherent categories (categories have been somewhat modified as described below). For all AHRQ principal discharge diagnosis code CCSs with sufficient volume (CCSs with fewer than 100 admissions are excluded), we also included a discharge diagnosis-specific indicator in the model. This ensures that the principal discharge diagnosis for each patient is also included in the risk model, in addition to the 20 comorbid risk variables described above.

Rationale: Discharge diagnosis categories differ in their baseline mortality risks and hospitals will differ in their relative distribution of these discharge diagnosis categories (service mix) within each division. Therefore,

adjusting for principal discharge diagnosis categories levels the playing field across hospitals with different service mixes. See the data dictionary for the CCSs (tabs HWM Non-SurgCohortDiv CCS and HWM SurgicalCohortDiv CCS) that comprise each of the divisions in this measure and HWM_Risk_Var_ParEst for the parameter estimates for the CCS categories for each division.

CCS modifications: Note that in addition to using the AHRQ CCS grouper to define the CCS categories in each division (see section S.7 of the submission form), we made two types of modifications: (1) We modified selected CCS highly heterogeneous CCS categories to create more homogeneous CCS risk variable groups, and so increased the face validity of risk model, described below, and (2) we combined low-mortality CCSs (those with mortality rate of 1% or lower), also described below.

Heterogeneous CCSs: In parallel with our approach during measure development in ICD-9 (see section 4.5.3 of the attached technical report) and in response to feedback from our TEP and Technical Workgroup, we addressed heterogeneity within specific AHRQ CCS groups where the risk of mortality varied significantly across the different ICD-10 diagnoses within the CCS. As explained in detail in the technical report, we calculated the correlation between mortality rates grouped by principal discharge diagnosis ICD-10 code within each CCS. We identified any CCS with an intra-class correlation (ICC) score >0.05 as having high heterogeneity. (The ICC is used in this context to identify heterogeneity of mortality risk across ICD-10 codes within the ICC. The value 0.05, or 5%, is a conventional threshold for accounting for between group heterogeneity.) To address the heterogeneity, three clinicians independently, and through consensus, modified the highly heterogeneous CCSs using clinically informed recategorizations, by either splitting the CCSs into more than one CCS, moving ICD-10 codes to more clinically coherent CCSs, or removing from inclusion ICD-10 codes where quality of care less likely impacts survival, and/or where there were a small number of patients. During ICD-10 respecification, we identified 44 highly heterogeneous CCSs and made modifications to 20 of them, as described in the data dictionary, tab “HWM_CCS_Modifications.”

Low-mortality CCSs: During initial measure development, the patient-level risk models for two divisions (the “Other” surgical and non-surgical divisions) did not converge due to the large number of CCS category codes in these divisions, and due to low mortality rates associated with some of the CCSs in these divisions (which are used for service-line risk adjustment). However, the TEP and Patient and Family Caregiver Workgroup had a strong interest in retaining these admissions (more than half a million admissions) in the measure. To address this issue, within each division, CCSs with low mortality rates (those less than or equal to 1%) are combined into one independent group, which reduces the total number of risk variables (CCS category codes) in the model.

Social Risk Factors for Disparities Analyses

We selected variables representing social risk factors based on a review of literature, conceptual pathways, and feasibility. In section 1.8, we describe the variables available in Medicare claims data that we considered and analyzed based on this review. Below, we describe the pathways by which social risk factors may influence risk of the outcome.

Our conceptualization of the pathways by which patients’ social risk factors affect the outcome is informed by the literature cited below and IMPACT Act–funded work by the National Academy of Science, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM) [5] and the Department of Health and Human Services Assistant Secretary for Policy and Evaluation (ASPE) [7].

Causal Pathways for Social Risk Variable Selection

There is a large body of literature linking various SES factors to worse health status and higher mortality over a lifetime [2, 6, 14, 22]. Although some recent literature evaluates the relationship between patient social risk factor such as SES and the mortality outcome, few studies directly address causal pathways or examine the role of the hospital in these pathways (see, for example, [4, 10, 13, 17, 18]). Moreover, the current literature examines a wide range of conditions and risk variables with no clear consensus on which risk factors

demonstrate the strongest relationship with mortality. The social risk factors that have been examined in the literature can be categorized into three domains: (1) patient-level variables, (2) neighborhood/community-level variables, and (3) hospital-level variables. Patient-level variables describe characteristics of individual patients, and include the patient's income or education level [8]. Neighborhood/community-level variables use information from sources such as the American Community Survey as either a proxy for individual patient-level data or to measure environmental factors. Studies using these variables use one dimensional measures such as median household income or composite measures such as the AHRQ-validated SES index score [1]. Hospital-level variables measure attributes of the hospital which may be related to patient risk. Examples of hospital-level variables used in studies are ZIP code characteristics aggregated to the hospital level or the proportion of Medicaid patients served in the hospital [11, 12].

The conceptual relationship, or potential causal pathways by which these possible social risk factors influence the risk of mortality following an acute illness or major surgery, like the factors themselves, are varied and complex. There are at least four potential pathways that are important to consider.

1. Relationship of social risk factors such as SES to health at admission. Patients who have lower income/education/literacy or unstable housing may have a worse general health status and may present for their hospitalization or procedure with a greater severity of underlying illness. These social risk factors, which are characterized by patient-level or neighborhood/community-level (as proxy for patient-level) variables, may contribute to worse health status at admission due to competing priorities (restrictions based on job, lack of childcare), lack of access to care (geographic, cultural, or financial), or lack of health insurance. Given that these risk factors all lead to worse general health status, this causal pathway should be largely accounted for by current clinical risk-adjustment.
2. Use of low-quality hospitals. Patients of lower income, lower education, or unstable housing have been shown not to have equitable access to high quality facilities because such facilities are less likely to be found in geographic areas with large populations of poor patients. Thus, patients with low income are more likely to be seen in lower quality hospitals, which can explain increased risk of mortality following hospitalization.
3. Differential care within a hospital. The third major pathway by which social risk factors may contribute to mortality risk is that patients may not receive equivalent care within a facility. For example, patients with social risk factors such as lower education may require differentiated care (e.g. provision of lower literacy information – that they do not receive).
4. Influence of social risk factors on mortality risk outside of hospital quality and health status. Some social risk factors, such as income or wealth, may affect the likelihood of mortality without directly affecting health status at admission or the quality of care received during the hospital stay. For instance, while a hospital may make appropriate care decisions and provide tailored care and education, a lower-income patient may have a worse outcome post-discharge due to competing economic priorities or a lack of access to care outside of the hospital.

These proposed pathways are complex to distinguish analytically. They also have different implications on the decision to risk adjust or not. We, therefore, first assessed if there was evidence of a meaningful effect on the risk model to warrant efforts to distinguish among these pathways.

Based on this model and the considerations outlined in section 1.8, the following social risk variables were considered:

- Dual eligible status
- AHRQ SES index

We assessed the relationship between the SES variables with the outcome and examined the incremental effect in a multivariable model. For this measure, we also examined the extent to which the addition of any

one of these variables improved model performance or changed hospital results. Given no meaningful improvement in the risk-model or change in performance scores we did not further seek to distinguish the causal pathways for these measures.

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2b3.3b. How was the conceptual model of how social risk impacts this outcome developed? Please check all that apply:

- ☒ Published literature
- ☐ Internal data analysis
- ☐ Other (please describe)

2b3.4a. What were the statistical results of the analyses used to select risk factors?

Tables showing the final variables in the 9 models with associated odds ratios (OR) and confidence intervals (CI) are in tab HWM_Risk_Var_ParEst of the hybrid data dictionary.

2b3.4b. Describe the analyses and interpretation resulting in the decision to select social risk factors (e.g. prevalence of the factor across measured entities, empirical association with the outcome, contribution of unique variation in the outcome, assessment of between-unit effects and within-unit effects.) Also describe the impact of adjusting for social risk (or not) on providers at high or low extremes of risk.

The impact of socioeconomic factors was not directly tested in the Hybrid HWM measure due to lack of availability of EHR data from a nationally representative set of hospitals with patients who represent the full

spectrum of socioeconomic status. Instead, we report results of testing done in the claims-only HWM measure. Because of the homology between the two measures, there is no reason to suspect that the results of analyses done for the claims-only measure would differ in any significant way from results of analyses for a nationally representative hybrid measure.

To examine the impact of social risk factors on the measure calculation, we evaluated two indicators of social risk: Medicaid dual-eligibility and the AHRQ SES index. Our goal for these analyses were two-fold: 1) to examine whether these factors were associated with increased risk in the outcome after adjusting for other risk factors and 2) to evaluate the impact of social risk factors on risk-adjusted hospital-wide mortality rates (RSMRs).

Analysis #1. Distribution of social risk factors across hospitals: To examine how the proportion of patients with each social risk factor varied across hospitals.

The prevalence of social risk factors in the hospital-wide mortality cohort varies across measured entities. The median percentage of dual-eligible patients is 14.6% (interquartile range [IQR]: 9.2% – 22.8%). The median percentage of low-SES patients using the AHRQ SES Index score is 17.0% (IQR: 7.1% – 34.2%).

Analysis #2. Patient-level observed mortality rates for patients with social risk factors

To evaluate the association of these risk factors with the outcome (univariate model), we first quantified the overall observed rate by each social risk factor group (dual-eligible: yes vs. no, AHRQ SES Index: lowest quartile of SES Index vs. all others), as well as the division-level observed rates by each social risk factor.

The overall outcome rate (observed mortality) for patients with dual-eligible status is significantly higher than the outcome rate for patients who are not dual eligible (10.1% vs. 6.3%, $p < .0001$). The outcome rate for patients with low SES is significantly higher (though the difference not as large as dual-eligible status) than the outcome rate for patients that are not in the lowest SES quartile (7.5% vs. 6%, $p < .0001$).

We further examined this relationship at the division level, for both dual eligible status (Table 5), and for low SES status (Table 5). At the division level (Table 5) the observed mortality rates for certain divisions (such as infectious disease and surgical, cardiothoracic) are markedly higher for patients with dual eligible status compared to all other patients. The differences for patients with low SES status are not as pronounced (Table 6) as those for patients with dual eligible status (Table 5).

Table 5. Division level observed mortality stratified by Dual Eligibility status

Division		Non-Dual Eligible		Dual-Eligible	
		Frequency	Observed Mortality Rate (%)	Frequency	Observed Mortality Rate (%)
Non-Surgical	Cancer	30516	14.53	4281	15.42
	Cardiac	467537	6.20	64496	8.67
	GI	272578	4.63	46388	6.62
	Infectious Disease	433904	11.99	121712	17.18
	Other	331915	5.42	66400	6.68
	Neurology	193960	7.74	34988	9.59
	Orthopedic	113909	4.83	17965	5.92
	Pulmonary	388148	9.18	91183	11.46
	Renal	267963	8.70	60150	9.43
Surgical	CT	121567	5.98	10083	11.64
	Cancer	79180	2.21	5918	3.87
	General	179643	6.07	24310	10.68
	Other	138808	3.78	17034	6.88
	Neurosurgery	29037	2.97	1745	4.53
	Orthopedics	624641	1.33	45198	3.64

Table 6. Division level observed mortality stratified by AHRQ SES status

Division		Not Low SES Status		Low SES Status	
		Frequency	Observed Mortality Rate (%)	Frequency	Observed Mortality Rate (%)
Non-surgical	Cancer	28204	14.31	6749	15.38
	Cardiac	430179	6.38	105861	6.77
	GI	256211	4.79	65064	5.22
	Infectious Disease	443428	12.81	115986	13.89
	Other	317870	5.55	83063	5.72
	Neurology	184106	8.00	46333	7.85
	Orthopedic	110864	4.93	22108	4.97
	Pulmonary	376388	9.61	106391	9.29
	Renal	254313	8.92	76252	8.21
Surgical	CT	110740	5.99	21772	8.42
	Cancer	72034	2.14	13608	3.28
	General	166277	6.25	39002	8.01
	Other	127647	3.90	29206	4.92
	Neurosurgery	26569	2.89	4364	3.96
	Orthopedics	581471	1.40	93071	1.91

CT: Cardiothoracic

Analysis #3: Strength and significance of each of the social risk factors in the context of a multivariable model for each division.

We examined the strength and significance of the SES variables in the context of a bivariate model compared with a multivariable model. Consistent with the above findings, when we include these variables in a multivariable model that includes all of the claims-based clinical variables, the odds ratios for both the dual eligible and AHRQ SES variables in the multivariable model are almost always lower than the odds ratio for the bivariate association (middle column of figures) (Figure 4 and Figure 5). This indicates that comorbidity variables that are already in the risk model are attenuating the odds ratios for the social risk factor variables.

For example, in Figure 4, for the dual eligibility risk factor, in the bivariate model (middle column), the odds ratios for this social risk factor are statistically greater than 1.0 in all but one division. However, for each division, including the dual eligibility risk variable in a multivariable model together with all of the claims-based clinical variables (the far right-hand column) attenuates the odds ratios compared with the bivariate model (which only contains the social risk variable). More specifically, in the surgical Orthopedic (“S: Orthopedics”) division, the odds ratio for the bivariate association between dual eligibility and mortality is significantly greater than 1 (middle column), but in a multivariable model, the odds ratios for the outcome for patients with that risk factor are attenuated, and are now no longer significantly different from 1 (far right column). As noted above, this indicates that the comorbid risk variables that are already in the model (in the multivariate view) are capturing the risk associated with the outcome seen in the bivariate analysis (with the social risk factor alone). This means that the dual eligible variable in a multivariable model would not play a significant role in the model (the coefficients/odds ratios are not different from 1). This is true for all of the divisions shown below in Figure 4, except for the surgical neurosurgery division (where the presence of the dual eligible variables is actually protective).

For the AHRQ SES risk factor however (Figure 5), for most of the non-surgical divisions (shown on the lower half of the Figure, labeled “NS”), even the bivariate relationship is not significantly different than one (results span the red line at 1.0), and the AHRQ low SES variable in a multivariable model has little effect on the odds ratio for the outcome for those divisions.

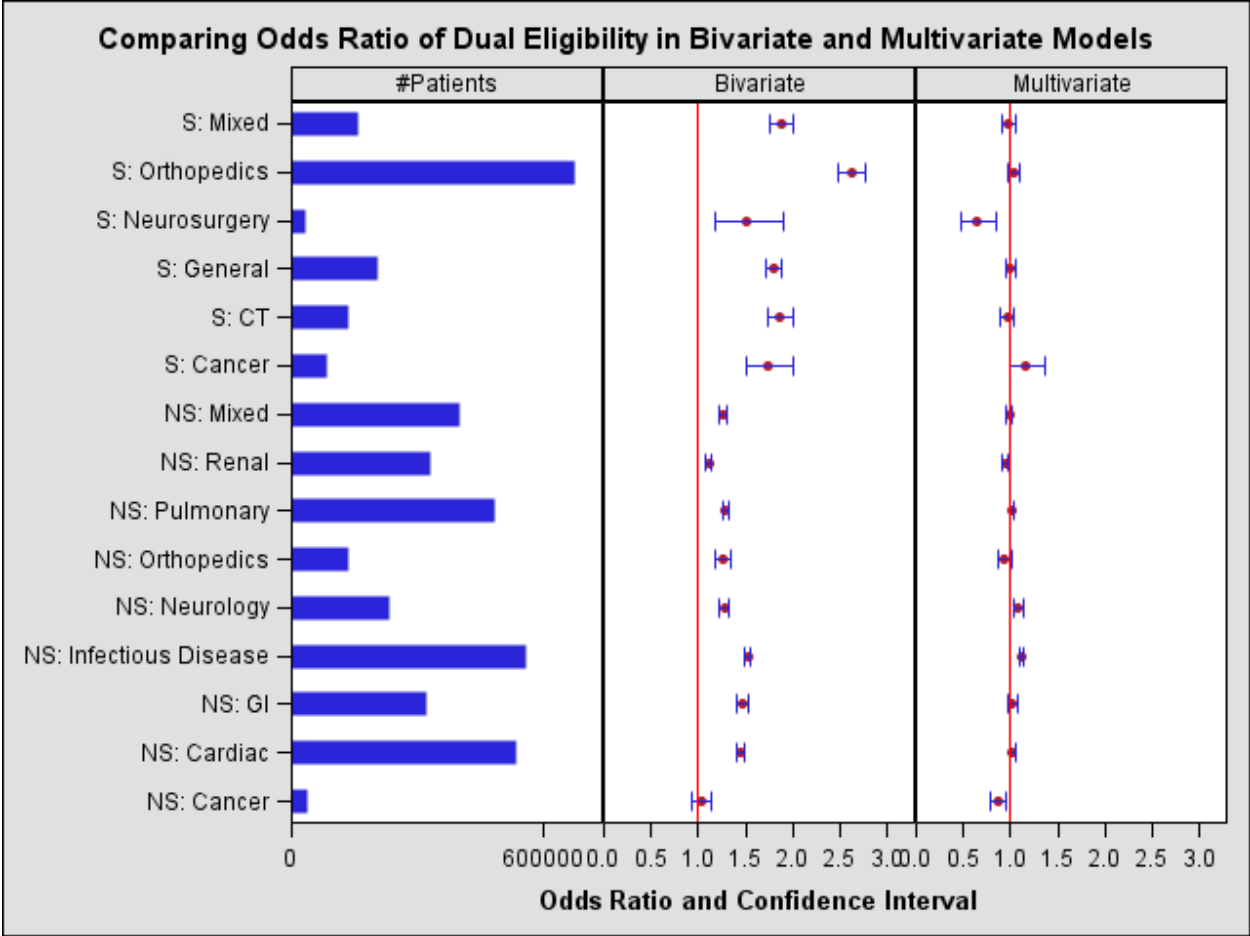
For surgical divisions, the bivariate relationship between the AHRQ SES indicator and the outcome is significant (Figure 5, middle column). However, further analysis shows that adding the risk variable into the multivariable model again attenuates the effect size for most divisions (the odds ratios for most division are close to 1 in the multivariable model), with the exception of the surgical cancer division.

We then separated the hospital- and patient-level effects for the surgical cancer division (see data dictionary tab “HWM_Cancer”), and compared it with two clinical comorbid risk variables (CMS CC 24: Disorders of Fluid/Electrolyte/Acid-Base Balance; and CC 51 Dementia With Complications), and found that for the cancer division:

- There is a small hospital-level effect and no patient-level effect for the dual-eligible variable.
- There is a meaningful hospital-level effect for the low AHRQ SES variable, which is larger than the hospital-level effect of the comparator comorbid risk variables (CC 24; CC 51), but of a similar magnitude to the patient-level effect for this variable.

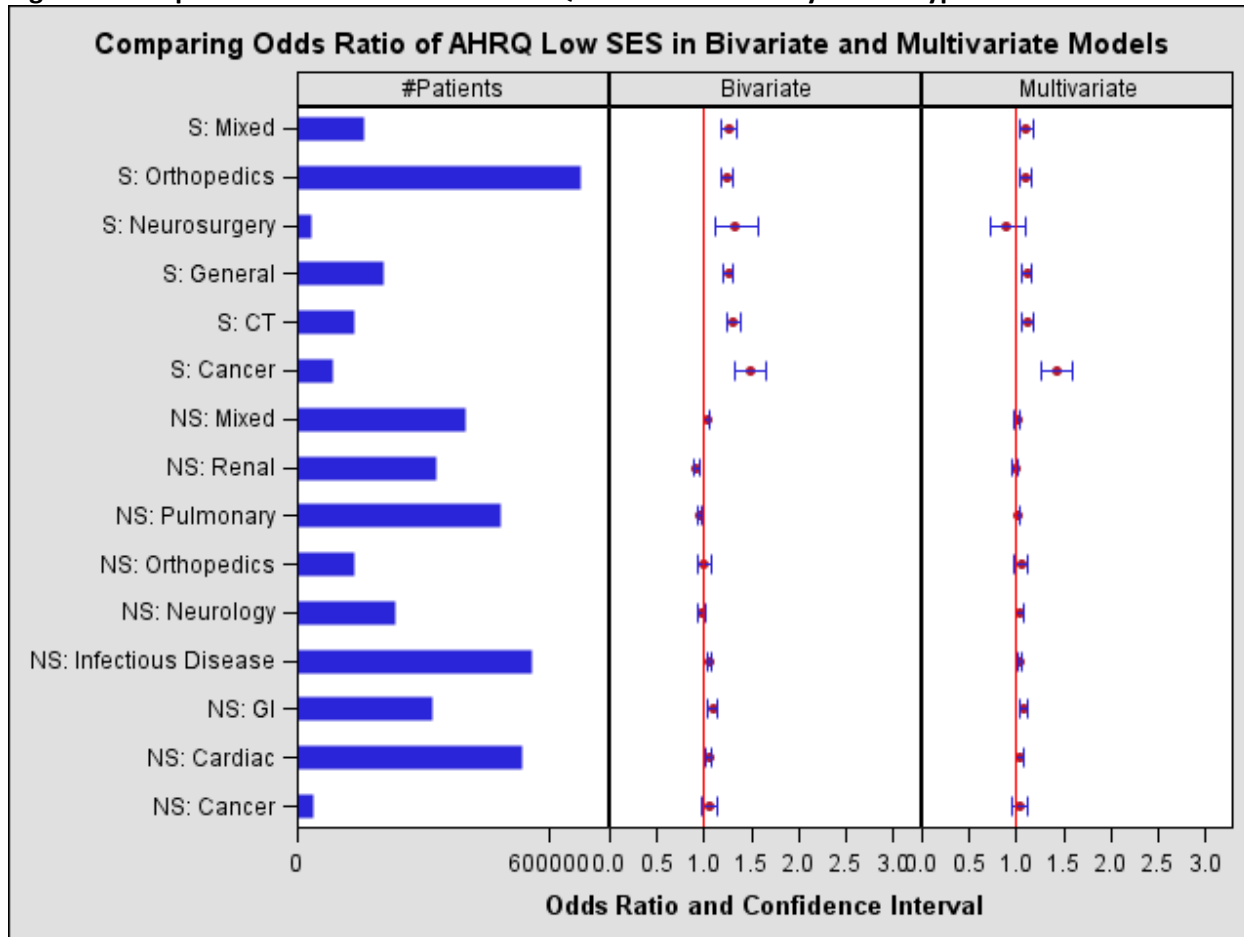
Note that the surgical cancer division is one of the smallest (in terms of admissions) in the measure, representing just 2.0% of admissions in the measure (about 86,000 admissions out of 4.3 million total admissions). This division, therefore, contributes less to the overall HWM score compared to the other divisions.

Figure 4. Comparison of Odds Ratios for Dual-Eligible Patients by Model Type



S = Surgical; S: Mixed = Surgical Other; S: CT = Cardiothoracic surgery; NS = Non-surgical; NS: Mixed=Non-surgical Other

Figure 5. Comparison of Odds Ratios for AHRQ Low SES Patients by Model Type



S = Surgical; S: Mixed = Surgical Other; S: CT = Cardiothoracic surgery; NS = Non-surgical; NS: Mixed=Non-surgical Other

Analysis #5: To understand the effect of each risk factor in the performance and predictive ability of each of the 15 models, we compared the C-statistics for each model with and without the addition of each of the social risk factors. The results shown below in Table 7

indicate that entering these (dual eligible, and low AHRQ SES index) variables into the risk-adjustment model does not improve model performance (c-statistics remained unchanged).

Table 7. Division-level C-Statistics, with and without Social Risk Adjustment

Division		C-statistic without Social Risk in the Model	C-statistic with Dual-Eligible in the Model	C-statistic with AHRQ SES in the Model
Non-surgical	Cancer	0.78	0.78	0.78
	Cardiac	0.84	0.84	0.84
	GI	0.84	0.84	0.84
	Infectious Disease	0.84	0.84	0.84
	Other	0.82	0.82	0.82
	Neurology	0.83	0.83	0.83
	Orthopedic	0.82	0.82	0.82
	Pulmonary	0.81	0.81	0.81
	Renal	0.78	0.78	0.78
	CT	0.83	0.83	0.83
Surgical	Cancer	0.85	0.86	0.86
	General	0.87	0.87	0.87
	Other	0.87	0.87	0.87
	Neurosurgery	0.92	0.92	0.92
	Orthopedics	0.91	0.91	0.91

Analysis #6:

To evaluate the impact of social risk factors on the measure score, we compared RSMRs calculated with and without each social risk factor included in the model. For these analyses we calculated the RSMR difference for each hospital (RSMR with the social risk variable minus RSMR without the social risk variable), and calculated Pearson correlation coefficients for the paired scores. We also show scatter plots for these same analyses.

The results show that entering these variables into the risk-adjustment model did not substantially change hospital-level measure scores (RSMRs). the median change in the differences between RSMRs for both social risk factors was zero (Table 8). Correlation coefficients between RSMR with and without adjustment for these factors were near 1 (0.9987 for dual-eligible, 0.9983 for low SES patients). Scatter plots showing this relationship are provided in Figures 6 and 7. This indicates that including these social risk factors in hospital-level measure scores result in limited differences in hospitals' measure results after accounting for other factors (age, comorbidities) included in the risk model.

Table 8. RSMR Distributions by Social Risk Factor

Risk Factor	Overall Hospital RSMR (with risk factor in the model)	Median Absolute Change in RSMR (%) (+/- risk factor)	Interquartile Range	Minimum	Maximum	Correlation Coefficient between RSMRs (+/- risk factor)
Dual-Eligible	0.0682	0.0000	0.0002	-0.0017	0.0033	0.9987
Low SES (AHRQ Index)	0.0682	0.0000	0.0001	-0.0089	0.0013	0.9983

Figure 6. Correlation of RSMR with and without Adjustment for Dual-Eligibility

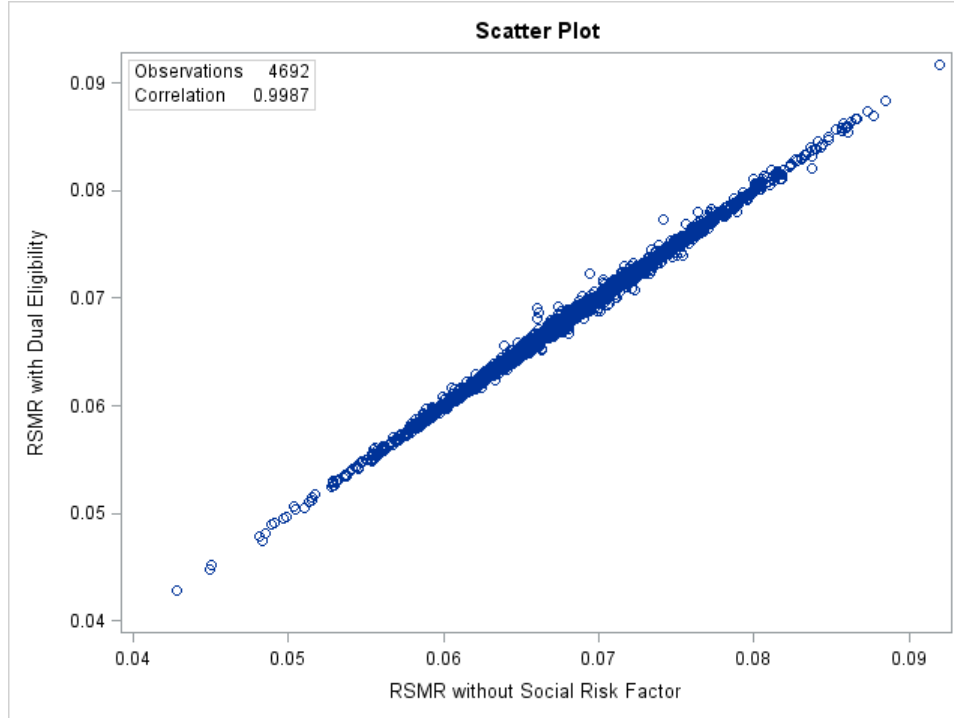
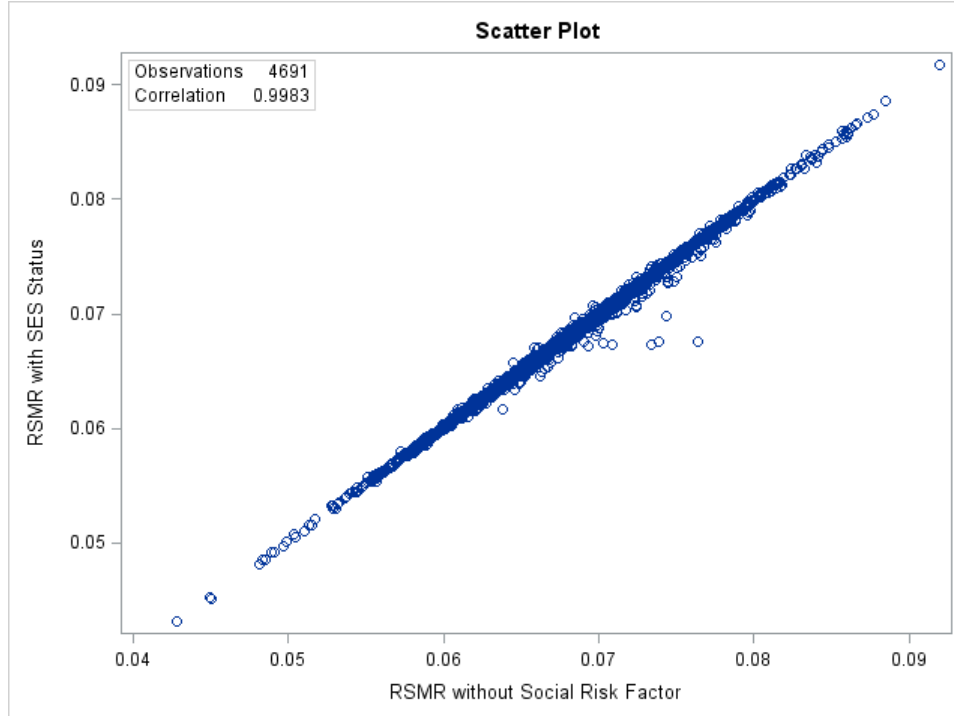


Figure 7. Correlation of RSMR with and without Adjustment for Low SES Status



In summary, we conclude that adjusting for social risk factors in this measure would have little effect on hospitals' measure scores:

- Correlation coefficients of measure scores comparing models with and without the social risk variables are

near 1.0.

- C-statistics with the social risk variables in vs. out of the model, are unchanged.
- For most clinical divisions, neither the dual-eligible nor low AHRQ SES variables had a statistically significant association with the risk of mortality in a multivariate model.
- In the surgical cancer division, which did show a relationship with the outcome in a multivariate model for the AHRQ SES variable, we show that:
 - o There is a hospital-level effect and a patient-level effect of similar magnitude
 - o The hospital-level effect is larger compared with the hospital-level effect for the condition-based (comorbid) risk variables.
 - o This division represents just 2.0% of the total cohort.

Therefore, while adjusting for this variable would not have much impact, any adjustment would also removing hospital-level effects that may reflect lower-quality care provide to patients with low SES status.

Based on these results, the measure does not adjust for these social risk factors.

2b3.5. Describe the method of testing/analysis used to develop and validate the adequacy of the statistical model or stratification approach (*describe the steps—do not just name a method; what statistical analysis was used*)

We computed three summary statistics for assessing model performance (Harrell and Shih, 2001) for the HWM mortality cohort:

Discrimination Statistics

(1) Area under the receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve (c-statistic)

The c-statistic is the probability that predicting the outcome is better than chance, which is a measure of how accurately a statistical model is able to distinguish between a patient with and without an outcome.

To calculate the c-statistic, observed mortality rates were compared to predicted mortality probabilities across predicted rate deciles.

(2) Predictive ability

Discrimination in predictive ability measures the ability to distinguish high-risk subjects from low-risk subjects; therefore, for a model with good predictive ability we would expect to see a wide range in mortality rates between the lowest decile and highest decile. To calculate the predictive ability, we calculated the range of observed mortality rates between the lowest and highest predicted deciles.

References

Harrell FE and Shih YC. Using full probability models to compute probabilities of actual interest to decision makers, *Int. J. Technol. Assess. Health Care* 17 (2001), pp. 17–26.

Provide the statistical results from testing the approach to controlling for differences in patient characteristics (case mix) below.

If stratified, skip to [2b3.9](#)

2b3.6. Statistical Risk Model Discrimination Statistics (e.g., c-statistic, R-squared):

Predictive ability and c-statistics for each model are shown in the table below:

Table 9. Division-level Model Discrimination (Predictive Ability and C-statistic)

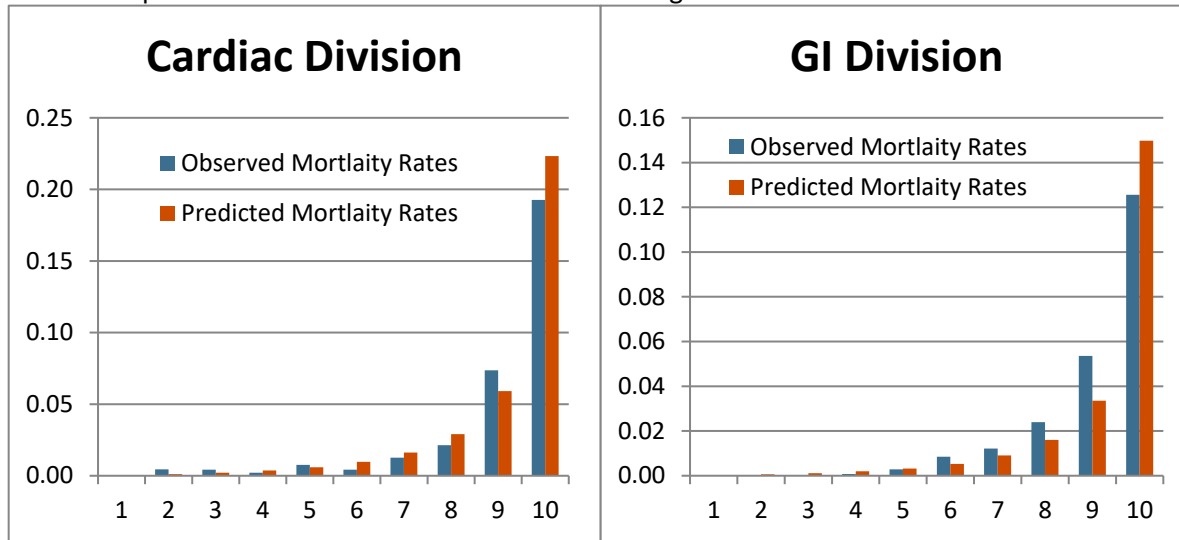
Sub-Division		Discrimination		
		Predictive Ability		C-statistic
		Lowest Decile (%)	Highest Decile (%)	
Non-Surgical	Cardiac	0.00	20.57	0.8903
	GI	0.00	16.22	0.9134
	Infectious Disease	0.25	42.92	0.8517
	Pulmonary	0.27	28.96	0.8228
	Renal	0.00	33.60	0.8790
	Other Non-surgical	0.00	17.19	0.8997
	Orthopedic	0.00	12.69	0.9051
	Neurology	0.16	26.04	0.9048
Surgical	General	0.00	19.12	0.9587

2b3.7. Statistical Risk Model Calibration Statistics (e.g., Hosmer-Lemeshow statistic):

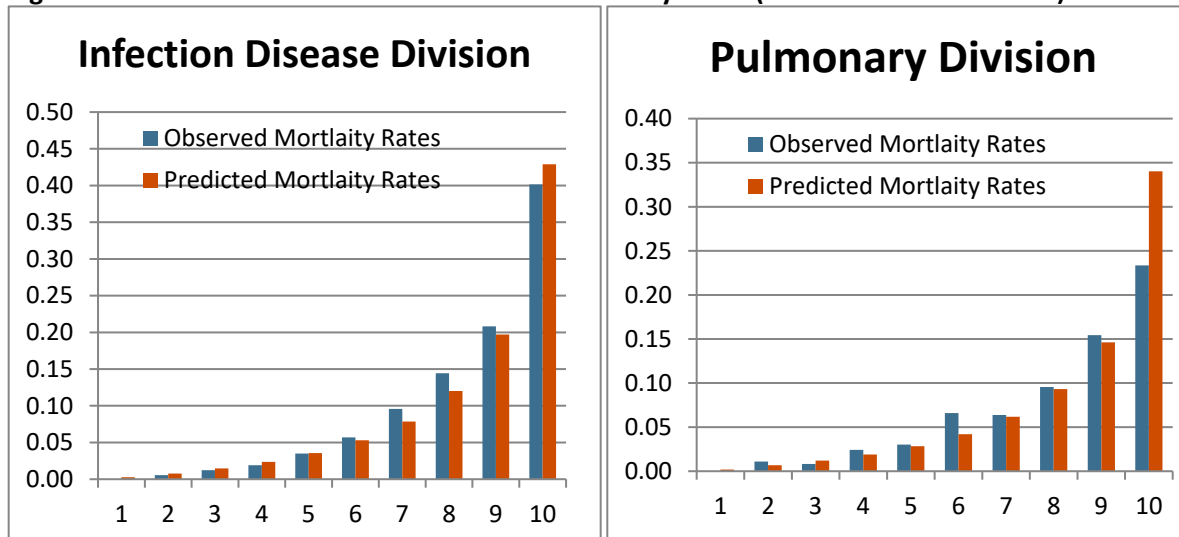
Risk-decile plots are shown below, in 2b3.8, demonstrating risk model calibration.

2b3.8. Statistical Risk Model Calibration – Risk decile plots or calibration curves:

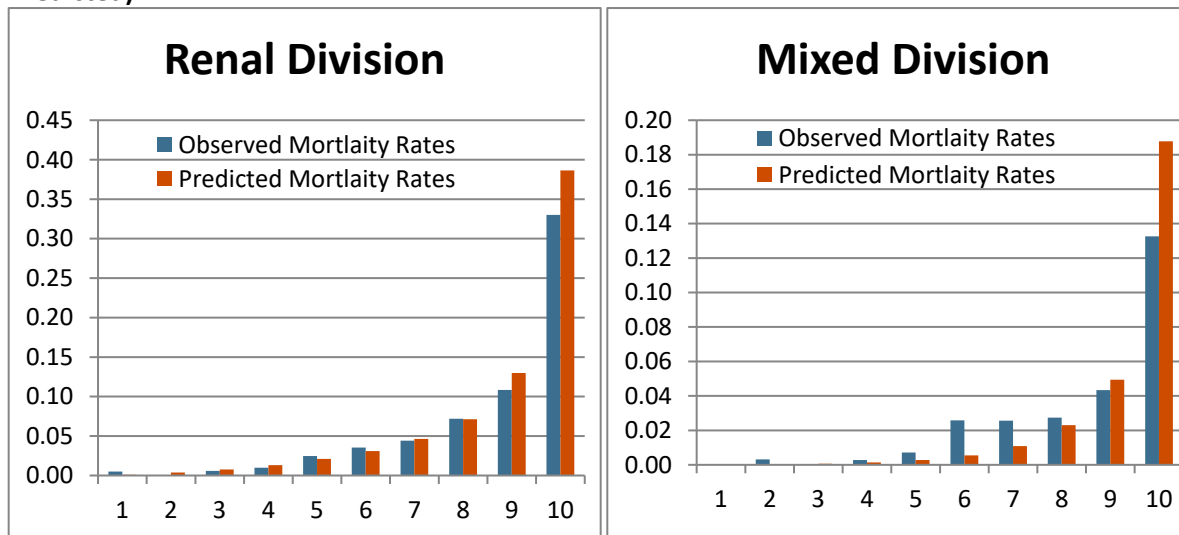
Risk-decile plots for each division are shown below in Figures 8-16:



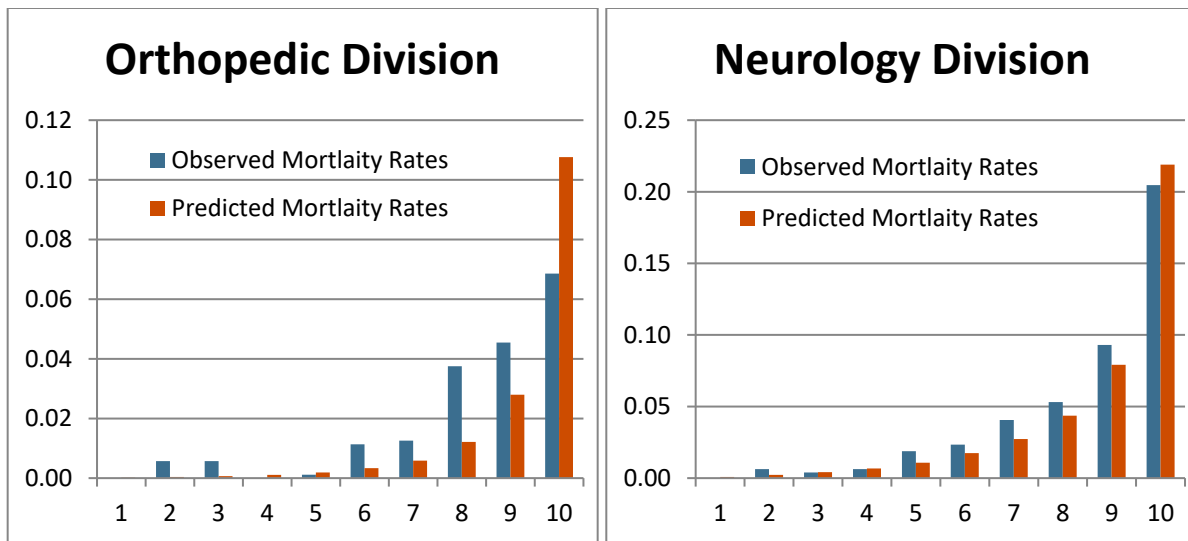
Figures 8 and 9. Cardiac and GI Division-level Mortality Rates (Observed and Predicted)



Figures 10 and 11. Infectious Disease and Pulmonary Division-level Mortality Rates (Observed and Predicted)



Figures 12 and 13. Infectious Disease and Pulmonary Division-level Mortality Rates (Observed and Predicted)



Figures 14 and 15. Orthopedic and Neurology Division-level Mortality Rates (Observed and Predicted)

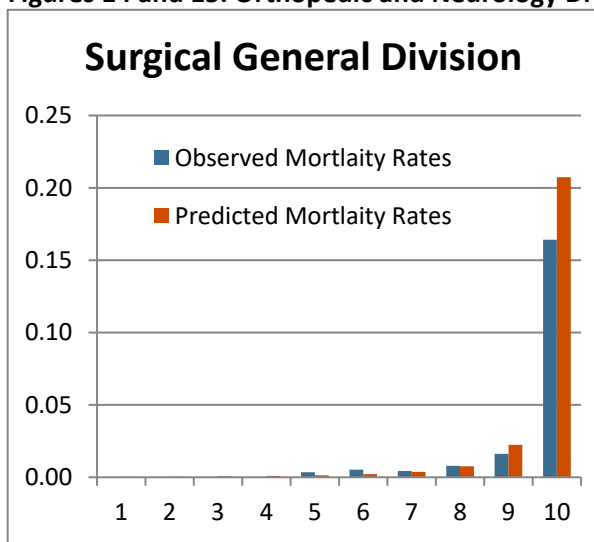


Figure 16. Surgical General Division-level Mortality Rates (Observed and Predicted)

2b3.9. Results of Risk Stratification Analysis:

Not applicable. This measure is not stratified.

2b3.10. What is your interpretation of the results in terms of demonstrating adequacy of controlling for differences in patient characteristics (case mix)? (i.e., what do the results mean and what are the norms for the test conducted)

The range of c-statistic results is 0.8228 to 0.9587 which is consistent with or better than results we have seen for other 30-day mortality measures. The predictive ability results demonstrate a wide range between the lowest decile and highest decile for each of the models, showing that that each model can distinguish between high and low-risk subjects. The risk-decile plots show that the predicted risk closely approximated the observed risk in most deciles and higher observed mortality rate are associated with higher predicted

mortality rates in deciles, suggesting good calibration. Note that our analyses are limited due to a small number of hospitals and admissions with data available for testing purposes.

2b3.11. Optional Additional Testing for Risk Adjustment (*not required, but would provide additional support of adequacy of risk model, e.g., testing of risk model in another data set; sensitivity analysis for missing data; other methods that were assessed*)

2b4. IDENTIFICATION OF STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT & MEANINGFUL DIFFERENCES IN PERFORMANCE

2b4.1. Describe the method for determining if statistically significant and clinically/practically meaningful differences in performance measure scores among the measured entities can be identified (**describe the steps—do not just name a method; what statistical analysis was used? Do not just repeat the information provided related to performance gap in 1b**)

We characterize the degree of variability by displaying and reporting the distribution of the RSMR.

2b4.2. What were the statistical results from testing the ability to identify statistically significant and/or clinically/practically meaningful differences in performance measure scores across measured entities? (e.g., number and percentage of entities with scores that were statistically significantly different from mean or some benchmark, different from expected; how was meaningful difference defined)

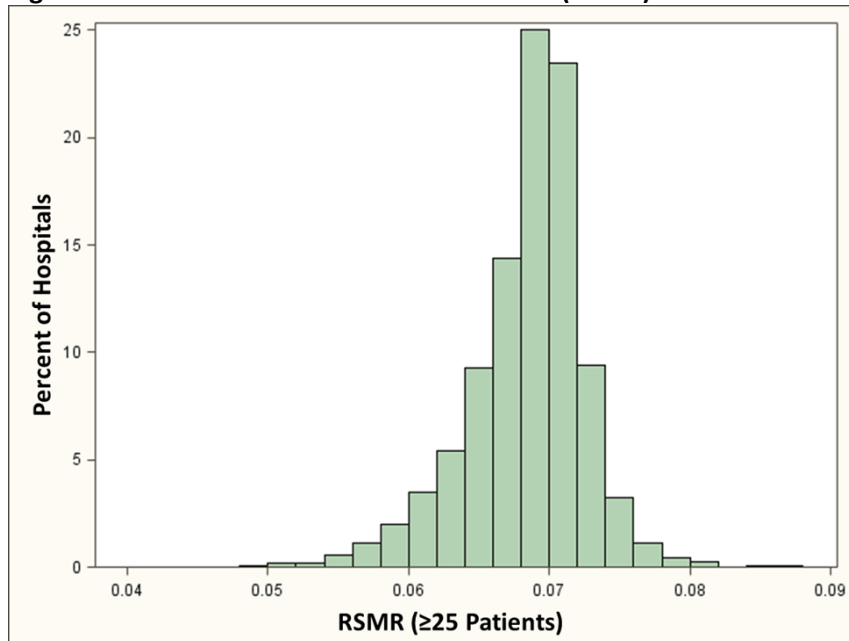
The RSMR for the hybrid HWM measure ranged from 3.98% to 5.43%, with a median RSMR of 4.65%. This, however, represents the results for only 21 hospitals and 87,161 admissions. These results do not reflect the true variation in hybrid RSMRs due to the limited number of hospitals and admissions. We refer below to the variation shown in the claims-only measure as an example of how we would expect the distribution of the hybrid RSMR to look, given a national sample of hospitals.

Percentiles of distribution for the overall measure score (RSMR) of the claims-only HWM measure, for hospitals with at least 25 patients, are shown in Table 11. The distribution of the measure score is shown in Figure 17.

Table 11. Distribution of Measure Score (RSMR) for the Claims-Only HWM Measure

Percentile	Min	1st	5th	10th	25th	50th	75th	90th	95th	99th	Max
RSMR	3.95%	5.57%	6.07%	6.32%	6.66%	6.93%	7.09%	7.26%	7.40%	7.75%	8.70%

Figure 17: Distribution of the Measure Score (RSMR) for the Claims-Only HWM Measure



2b4.3. What is your interpretation of the results in terms of demonstrating the ability to identify statistically significant and/or clinically/practically meaningful differences in performance across measured entities? (i.e., what do the results mean in terms of statistical and meaningful differences?)

The variation in performance between the lowest-performing hospitals (RSMR of 3.95%) and the highest performing hospitals (RSMR of 8.7%) shows there is a clear quality gap.

In terms of performance compared to the median (6.93%), some hospitals can achieve substantially lower overall risk-standardized mortality rates than the average-performing hospital, while other hospitals are performing substantially worse than an average performer.

Specifically, the best performing hospital (RSMR of 3.95%) is performing 43% better than an average performer (or has about 30 fewer deaths per 1000 patients compared to the average performer), while the worst performing hospital (8.70%) is performing 25% worse than an average performer (or has 18 more deaths per 1000 patients). Note that the that average performer refers to hospital with the same case and service-line mix, performing at the average (median).

2b5. COMPARABILITY OF PERFORMANCE SCORES WHEN MORE THAN ONE SET OF SPECIFICATIONS

If only one set of specifications, this section can be skipped.

Note: This item is directed to measures that are risk-adjusted (with or without social risk factors) **OR** to measures with more than one set of specifications/instructions (e.g., one set of specifications for how to identify and compute the measure from medical record abstraction and a different set of specifications for claims or eMeasures). It does not apply to measures that use more than one source of data in one set of specifications/instructions (e.g., claims data to identify the denominator and medical record abstraction for the numerator). **Comparability is not required when comparing performance scores with and without social risk**

factors in the risk adjustment model. However, if comparability is not demonstrated for measures with more than one set of specifications/instructions, the different specifications (e.g., for medical records vs. claims) should be submitted as separate measures.

2b5.1. Describe the method of testing conducted to compare performance scores for the same entities across the different data sources/specifications *(describe the steps—do not just name a method; what statistical analysis was used)*

Not applicable.

2b5.2. What were the statistical results from testing comparability of performance scores for the same entities when using different data sources/specifications? *(e.g., correlation, rank order)*

Not applicable.

2b5.3. What is your interpretation of the results in terms of the differences in performance measure scores for the same entities across the different data sources/specifications? *(i.e., what do the results mean and what are the norms for the test conducted)*

Not applicable.

2b6. MISSING DATA ANALYSIS AND MINIMIZING BIAS

2b6.1. Describe the method of testing conducted to identify the extent and distribution of missing data (or nonresponse) and demonstrate that performance results are not biased due to systematic missing data (or differences between responders and nonresponders) and how the specified handling of missing data minimizes bias *(describe the steps—do not just name a method; what statistical analysis was used)*

Not applicable.

2b6.2. What is the overall frequency of missing data, the distribution of missing data across providers, and the results from testing related to missing data? *(e.g., results of sensitivity analysis of the effect of various rules for missing data/nonresponse; if no empirical sensitivity analysis, identify the approaches for handling missing data that were considered and pros and cons of each)*

For the EHR clinical variables, the non-surgical divisions had fewer than 10% of admissions that were missing values. However, in the surgical divisions, while vitals were missing in fewer than 10% of admissions, the laboratory result values were missing in 15% - 50% of admissions, depending upon division. Because there are only 21 hospitals we did not examine the distribution of missing data across hospitals.

2b6.3. What is your interpretation of the results in terms of demonstrating that performance results are not biased due to systematic missing data (or differences between responders and nonresponders) and how the specified handling of missing data minimizes bias? *(i.e., what do the results mean in terms of supporting the selected approach for missing data and what are the norms for the test conducted; if no empirical analysis, provide rationale for the selected approach for missing data)*

For the EHR data elements used in the measure's risk models, we anticipate that there will be some missing data. We examined the rates of data capture, and missing data, in the development and testing samples (Dataset 1 and 2) as well as in the EHR data element feasibility and validity datasets reported with the hybrid hospital-wide readmission measure (NQF #2879e). We also examined the distribution of the CCDE data values in Dataset 1 to determine what proportion were out of physiological range and might represent data errors. We found that most values fell within physiological range and that there were few apparent errors in the data entry.

Missing Clinical EHR Values

We examined how many admissions in our Clinical Hybrid Dataset were missing values for each CCDE. The non-surgical divisions had fewer than 10% of admissions that were missing values. However, in the surgical divisions, while vitals were missing in fewer than 10% of admissions, the laboratory result values were missing in 15% - 50% of admissions, depending upon division. For development and testing purposes only, we imputed values for missing labs or vital signs, as described below:

- For all admissions missing any vital signs in a division and for admissions within a non-surgical division missing any laboratory result values, we used multiple imputation (imposing limits to ensure the imputed values were within clinical possibilities) with 5 copies of data with different imputations based on a multi-normal distribution in the division.
- For admissions within a surgical division missing any laboratory results, we randomly imputed a value within the normal range for that lab in the division. For the normal ranges, we used the values in Table 12.

Rationale: Surgical patients that are missing initial labs are most likely elective surgical admissions that had the labs collected within 30 days PRIOR TO ADMISSION. It is less likely that a patient with an extremely abnormal lab value would undergo an elective surgery without having the labs checked again on admission. This approach is for development and testing purposes only.

Table 12. EHR Risk Variables with Randomly Imputed Normal Ranges

Candidate EHR Risk Variables	Normal Range
Anion Gap	7-17
Bicarbonate	22-30
BUN	8-18
Chloride	96-106
Creatinine	0.5-1.2
Glucose	70-100
Hematocrit	37-52
Hemoglobin	12-18
Platelets	140-440
Potassium	3.3-5.0
Sodium	135-145
White Blood Count	4.0-10.0

To reduce the effect of the spurious outliers, we transformed extreme values by replacing them with a value at the outer limit of a designated range by a process called Winsorization [1,2]. All continuous variables with values less than 1st percentile or higher than the 99th percentile were Winsorized (i.e., values less than the 1st percentile were assigned to the value of the 1st percentile, and values greater than the 99th percentile were assigned to the value of the 99th percentile).

Given that the limited number of hospitals in our testing and development samples (21), we were not able to meaningfully examine at the relationship between missing values and HWM measure scores.

References:

1. Altenburg HP. Estimation of Radioimmunoassay Data Using Robust Nonlinear Regression Methods. In: Dodge Y, Whittaker J, eds. Computational Statistics: Physica-Verlag HD; 1992:367-372.
2. Dixon WJ, Yuen KK. Trimming and winsorization: A review. Statistische Hefte. 1974/06/01 1974;15(2-3):157-170

3. Feasibility

Extent to which the specifications including measure logic, require data that are readily available or could be captured without undue burden and can be implemented for performance measurement.

3a. Byproduct of Care Processes

For clinical measures, the required data elements are routinely generated and used during care delivery (e.g., blood pressure, lab test, diagnosis, medication order).

3a.1. Data Elements Generated as Byproduct of Care Processes.

Generated or collected by and used by healthcare personnel during the provision of care (e.g., blood pressure, lab value, diagnosis, depression score), Coded by someone other than person obtaining original information (e.g., DRG, ICD-9 codes on claims)

If other:

3b. Electronic Sources

The required data elements are available in electronic health records or other electronic sources. If the required data are not in electronic health records or existing electronic sources, a credible, near-term path to electronic collection is specified.

3b.1. To what extent are the specified data elements available electronically in defined fields (i.e., data elements that are needed to compute the performance measure score are in defined, computer-readable fields) Update this field for **maintenance of endorsement**.

ALL data elements are in defined fields in a combination of electronic sources

3b.2. If ALL the data elements needed to compute the performance measure score are not from electronic sources, specify a credible, near-term path to electronic capture, OR provide a rationale for using other than electronic sources. For **maintenance of endorsement**, if this measure is not an eMeasure (eCQM), please describe any efforts to develop an eMeasure (eCQM).

3b.3. If this is an eMeasure, provide a summary of the feasibility assessment in an attached file or make available at a measure-specific URL. Please also complete and attach the NQF Feasibility Score Card.

Attachment: [Del18b2HOP5HWMHybridFeasibilityScorecard12172018-636824670721265634-636839380577722698.xlsx](#)

3c. Data Collection Strategy

Demonstration that the data collection strategy (e.g., source, timing, frequency, sampling, patient confidentiality, costs associated with fees/licensing of proprietary measures) can be implemented (e.g., already in operational use, or testing demonstrates that it is ready to put into operational use). For eMeasures, a feasibility assessment addresses the data elements and measure logic and demonstrates the eMeasure can be implemented or feasibility concerns can be adequately addressed.

3c.1. Required for maintenance of endorsement. Describe difficulties (as a result of testing and/or operational use of the measure) regarding data collection, availability of data, missing data, timing and frequency of data collection, sampling, patient confidentiality, time and cost of data collection, other feasibility/implementation issues.

IF instrument-based, consider implications for both individuals providing data (patients, service recipients, respondents) and those whose performance is being measured.

Administrative data are routinely collected as part of the billing process.

Electronic clinical data will be collected from hospitals using MAT output and value sets to inform data queries and electronic reporting requirements. This has been described previously in the NQF endorsement submission for the Hybrid Hospital-Wide Readmission measure. We have attached the feasibility scorecards for both the Hybrid Hospital-Wide Readmission as well as the Hybrid Hospital-Wide Mortality measure.

3c.2. Describe any fees, licensing, or other requirements to use any aspect of the measure as specified (e.g., value/code set, risk model, programming code, algorithm).

There are no fees associated with the use of this measure.

4. Usability and Use

Extent to which potential audiences (e.g., consumers, purchasers, providers, policy makers) are using or could use performance results for both accountability and performance improvement to achieve the goal of high-quality, efficient healthcare for individuals or populations.

4a. Accountability and Transparency

Performance results are used in at least one accountability application within three years after initial endorsement and are publicly reported within six years after initial endorsement (or the data on performance results are available). If not in use at the time of initial endorsement, then a credible plan for implementation within the specified timeframes is provided.

4.1. Current and Planned Use

NQF-endorsed measures are expected to be used in at least one accountability application within 3 years and publicly reported within 6 years of initial endorsement in addition to performance improvement.

Specific Plan for Use	Current Use (for current use provide URL)
Public Reporting Not in use	

4a1.1 For each CURRENT use, checked above (update for maintenance of endorsement), provide:

- Name of program and sponsor
- Purpose
- Geographic area and number and percentage of accountable entities and patients included
- Level of measurement and setting

This measure is not yet in public reporting.

4a1.2. If not currently publicly reported OR used in at least one other accountability application (e.g., payment program, certification, licensing) what are the reasons? (e.g., Do policies or actions of the developer/steward or accountable entities restrict access to performance results or impede implementation?)

See 4.a.1.3 below.

4a1.3. If not currently publicly reported OR used in at least one other accountability application, provide a credible plan for implementation within the expected timeframes -- any accountability application within 3 years and publicly reported within 6 years of initial endorsement. (Credible plan includes the specific

program, purpose, intended audience, and timeline for implementing the measure within the specified timeframes. A plan for accountability applications addresses mechanisms for data aggregation and reporting.)

This measure may be included in the Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting Program. CMS signaled, in the IPPS proposed rule, the eventual possibility of including this measure (and/or the related claims only measure) within the Inpatient Quality Reporting (IQR) program.

4a2.1.1. Describe how performance results, data, and assistance with interpretation have been provided to those being measured or other users during development or implementation.

How many and which types of measured entities and/or others were included? If only a sample of measured entities were included, describe the full population and how the sample was selected.

N/A This measure is not currently in use.

4a2.1.2. Describe the process(es) involved, including when/how often results were provided, what data were provided, what educational/explanatory efforts were made, etc.

N/A This measure is not currently in use.

4a2.2.1. Summarize the feedback on measure performance and implementation from the measured entities and others described in 4d.1.

Describe how feedback was obtained.

This measure is not yet implemented.

4a2.2.2. Summarize the feedback obtained from those being measured.

This measure is not yet implemented.

4a2.2.3. Summarize the feedback obtained from other users

This measure is not yet implemented.

4a2.3. Describe how the feedback described in 4a2.2.1 has been considered when developing or revising the measure specifications or implementation, including whether the measure was modified and why or why not.

This is a new measure and there is no information available on performance improvement. This measure is not currently used in a program, but a primary goal of the measure is to provide information necessary to implement focused quality improvement efforts. Once the measure is implemented, we plan to examine trends in improvements by comparing RSMRs over time

Improvement

Progress toward achieving the goal of high-quality, efficient healthcare for individuals or populations is demonstrated. If not in use for performance improvement at the time of initial endorsement, then a credible rationale describes how the performance results could be used to further the goal of high-quality, efficient healthcare for individuals or populations.

4b1. Refer to data provided in 1b but do not repeat here. Discuss any progress on improvement (trends in performance results, number and percentage of people receiving high-quality healthcare; Geographic area and number and percentage of accountable entities and patients included.)

If no improvement was demonstrated, what are the reasons? If not in use for performance improvement at the time of initial endorsement, provide a credible rationale that describes how the performance results could be used to further the goal of high-quality, efficient healthcare for individuals or populations.

This measure is not yet implemented.

4b2. Unintended Consequences

The benefits of the performance measure in facilitating progress toward achieving high-quality, efficient healthcare for individuals or populations outweigh evidence of unintended negative consequences to individuals or populations (if such evidence exists).

4b2.1. Please explain any unexpected findings (positive or negative) during implementation of this measure including unintended impacts on patients.

This measure is not yet implemented.

4b2.2. Please explain any unexpected benefits from implementation of this measure.

This measure is not yet implemented.

5. Comparison to Related or Competing Measures

If a measure meets the above criteria and there are endorsed or new related measures (either the same measure focus or the same target population) or competing measures (both the same measure focus and the same target population), the measures are compared to address harmonization and/or selection of the best measure.

5. Relation to Other NQF-endorsed Measures

Are there related measures (conceptually, either same measure focus or target population) or competing measures (conceptually both the same measure focus and same target population)? If yes, list the NQF # and title of all related and/or competing measures.

Yes

5.1a. List of related or competing measures (selected from NQF-endorsed measures)

5.1b. If related or competing measures are not NQF endorsed please indicate measure title and steward.

Hospital-Wide All-Cause Risk-Standardized Readmission Measure (NQF #1789);

Hospital-level risk-standardized complication rate (RSCR) following elective primary total hip arthroplasty (THA) and/or total knee arthroplasty (TKA) (NQF #1550);

Hospital 30-day, all-cause, risk-standardized mortality rate (RSMR) following pneumonia hospitalization (NQF #0468);

Hospital 30-Day, all-cause, risk-standardized mortality rate (RSMR) following chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) hospitalization (NQF #1893);

Hospital 30-Day, all-cause, risk-standardized mortality rate (RSMR) following coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) Surgery (NQF #2558);

Hospital 30-day, all-cause, risk-standardized mortality rate (RSMR) following acute myocardial infarction (AMI) hospitalization (NQF #0230);

Hospital 30-day, all-cause, risk-standardized mortality rate (RSMR) following heart failure (HF) hospitalization (NQF #0229);

Hospital 30-day, all-cause, risk-standardized mortality rate (RSMR) following acute ischemic stroke hospitalization.

Death Rate in Low Mortality Diagnosis Related Groups (PSI-02) (NQF #0347)

AHRQ's Mortality for Select Conditions (IQI-90) (NQF #0530)

5a. Harmonization of Related Measures

The measure specifications are harmonized with related measures;

OR

The differences in specifications are justified

5a.1. If this measure conceptually addresses EITHER the same measure focus OR the same target population as NQF-endorsed measure(s):

Are the measure specifications harmonized to the extent possible?

Yes

5a.2. If the measure specifications are not completely harmonized, identify the differences, rationale, and impact on interpretability and data collection burden.

This hybrid HWM measure incorporates patient-level clinical data from the EHR into the risk adjustment model, compared to the claims-only hospital-wide mortality measure. This hybrid HWM measure is intended to complement the existing CMS Hospital-Wide All-Cause Risk-Standardized Readmission Measure (NQF #1789) to allow assessment of trends in hospital performance for both readmission and mortality outcomes, similar to other complementary pairs of readmission and mortality measures for specific conditions and procedures. By measuring mortality outcomes across almost all hospitalized patients, this measure will provide an important additional performance assessment that will complement condition- and procedure-specific or other more narrowly defined mortality measures and allow a greater number of patients and hospitals to be evaluated. This HWM measure captures a similarly broad cohort to the CMS Hospital-Wide All-Cause Risk-Standardized Readmission Measure (NQF #1789), and a broader cohort than those of other CMS condition-specific measures. Because the mortality measure is focused on a different outcome, it differs from the existing CMS Hospital-Wide All-Cause Risk Standardized Readmission Measure (NQF #1789) in a couple of ways. First, this HWM measure includes patients with a principal discharge diagnosis of cancer, whereas those patients are not included in the readmission measure. Cancer patients are appropriate to include as many have survival as their primary goal, however due to cancer treatment plans, readmissions are frequently part of the plan and expected and therefore are not a reasonable signal of quality. Another difference between the two measures is the number of divisions or specialty cohorts the patients are divided into in order to more accurately risk adjust for case-mix and service-mix. The readmission measure divides patients into six categories, or “specialty cohorts”, while the mortality measure uses 15. This is because the risk of mortality is much more closely related to patient factors than readmission is related to patient factors. PSI-02 (NQF #0357) is another complementary mortality measure, which captures a different patient population and a different outcome compared with the HWM measure submitted with this application. PSI-02 captures patients 18 years of age or older, or obstetric patients, whereas the HWM measure captures patients between the ages of 65 and 94. PSI-02 captures DRGs with less than 0.5% mortality rate, whereas the HWM measure captures all patients within all CCSs, regardless of mortality rate. HWM captures mortality up to 30 days past admission, where AHRQ PSI-02 only captures in-hospital mortality. IQI 90 (NQF #0530) is another complimentary mortality measure, which is a composite measure of the number of in-hospital deaths for a narrow range of conditions (CHF, stroke, hip fracture, pneumonia, acute myocardial infarction and GI hemorrhage). The HWM measure presented in this application captures all deaths after 30 days of admission, for all conditions and procedures.

5b. Competing Measures

The measure is superior to competing measures (e.g., is a more valid or efficient way to measure);

OR

Multiple measures are justified.

5b.1. If this measure conceptually addresses both the same measure focus and the same target population as NQF-endorsed measure(s):

Describe why this measure is superior to competing measures (e.g., a more valid or efficient way to measure quality); OR provide a rationale for the additive value of endorsing an additional measure. (Provide analyses when possible.)

There are no competing NQF-endorsed measures.

Appendix

A.1 Supplemental materials may be provided in an appendix. All supplemental materials (such as data collection instrument or methodology reports) should be organized in one file with a table of contents or bookmarks. If material pertains to a specific submission form number, that should be indicated. Requested information should be provided in the submission form and required attachments. There is no guarantee that supplemental materials will be reviewed.

Attachment:

Contact Information

Co.1 Measure Steward (Intellectual Property Owner): Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)

Co.2 Point of Contact: Lein, Han, lein.han@cms.hhs.gov, 410-786-0205-

Co.3 Measure Developer if different from Measure Steward: Yale New Haven Health Services Corporation/Center for Outcomes Research and Evaluation (YNHHSC/CORE)

Co.4 Point of Contact: Karen, Dorsey, karen.dorsey@yale.edu, 203-764-5700-

Additional Information

Ad.1 Workgroup/Expert Panel involved in measure development

Provide a list of sponsoring organizations and workgroup/panel members' names and organizations. Describe the members' role in measure development.

CORE convened a Technical Expert Panel comprised of clinicians, patients, and experts in quality improvement to provide input on key methodological decisions.

TEP Members:

- Michelle Beck – University of MD Upper Chesapeake Medical Center, MD
- Jeanne Black, PhD, MBA – Manager of Health Policy and Program Evaluation, Cedars-Sinai Health System; Los Angeles, CA
- John Bott – Manager of Healthcare Ratings, Consumer Reports; Yonkers, NY
- Roger Dmochowski, MD, MMHC, FACS – Executive Medical Director of Quality, Safety, and Risk, Vanderbilt University Medical Center; Nashville, TN
- Richard Dutton, MD, MBA – Chief Quality Officer, United States Anesthesia Partners; Houston, TX
- Gaye Hyre – Council Member and Patient/Family Caregiver Representative, CT State Innovation Model for Healthcare Equity and Access Council; Hartford, CT
- Irene Katzan, MD, MS – Director of Neurological Institute for Outcomes Research and Evaluation, Cleveland Clinic; Cleveland, OH
- Amy Kelley, MD, MSHA – Associate Professor and Staff Physician of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine, Icahn School of Medicine at Mt Sinai; New York, NY
- Brenda Matti-Orozco, MD, FACP – Chief of Division of General Internal Medicine and Palliative Medicine and Hospice Medical Director, Morristown Medical Center and Atlantic Home Care & Hospice; Morristown, NJ
- Jyotirmay Sharma, MD, FACS – Associate Professor of Surgery and Medical Officer in Division of Healthcare Quality and Promotion, Emory University School of Medicine and Centers for Disease Control; Atlanta, GA
-

CORE convened two work groups comprised of patients and family caregivers, who represent important perspectives from diverse backgrounds, including a mix of genders, geographic locations, and experiences. They were essential in providing feedback around cohort development (particularly around whether to include hospice patients), and measure usability. We have withheld names to protect confidentiality.

Patient and Family Caregiver Work Group Members:

- Female, health advocate, and podcaster who has more than two decades of lived experience with complex chronic illness in New York
- Male, heart transplant patient, intensive care unit advisory council for patient and families in Washington.
- Female, works with patients and families at a hospital in New Jersey.
- Female, educational psychologist, trained in a hospital, who has advocated for children with special needs in hospitals and schools in Texas.
- Male, is on a hospital advisory council for patients and families in New Jersey.
- Female, patient and family advisor for a medical group in New York.
- Female, is on the intensive care unit advisory council for patient and families in Washington.
- Female, current caregiver, and former patient and family advisor to a primary care medical group in New York.
- Female, council member for patients and families for a hospital in Washington.

Core convened a Technical Work Group comprised of clinicians, surgeons, and statistical experts as well as experts in the development and challenges of a hospital-wide mortality measure.

Technical Work Group Members:

- Lee Fleisher, MD – Chair of Department of Anesthesiology and Critical Care, University of Pennsylvania Health System; Vice-Chair of the Consensus Standards Advisory Committee; Co-Chair of the Surgery Standing Committee of the National Quality Forum
- Leora Horwitz, MD, MHS – Associate Professor in the Departments of Population Health and Medicine at New York University School of Medicine; founding Director of the Center for Healthcare Innovation and Delivery Science; New York University Langone Medical Center, and of the Division of Healthcare Delivery Science, Department of Population Health, New York University School of Medicine
- David Shahian, MD - Professor of Surgery at Harvard Medical School; Vice President of the Massachusetts General Hospital Center for Quality and Safety; Associate Director of the MGH Codman Center for Clinical Effectiveness in Surgery; Vice Chair of the National Quality Forum Health Professionals Council; Chair of The Society of Thoracic Surgeons Workforce on National Databases and its Quality Measurement Task Force

The CORE measure development team meets regularly and is comprised of experts in medicine, quality outcomes measurement, and measure development.

CORE Measure Development Team:

- Doris Peter, PhD – Reevaluation Lead, CORE
- Amy Salerno, MD – Development Lead, CORE
- Karen Dorsey, MD – Reevaluation Division Director, CORE
- Lisa Suter, MD – New Measure Division Director, CORE
- Darinka Djordjevic, PhD – Project Manager, CORE
- Lynette Lines, MS, PMP – Previous Project Manager, CORE
- Shuling Liu, PhD – Lead Analyst, CORE
- Yongfei Wang, MS – Analyst, CORE
- Nicole Cormier, MPH – Additional Team Member, CORE
- Erica Norton, BS – Task Coordinator, CORE
- Fior Rodriguez, BS – Research Assistant, CORE
- Rajvi Shah, Research, MPH Associate, CORE
- Keith Loh, BS – Research Assistant, CORE
- Alex Ferrante, BS – Research Assistant, CORE

- Amanda Audette, BS – Research Assistant, CORE
- Julianne Ani, MPH – Research Associate, CORE
- Zhenqiu Lin, PhD – Statistical Consultant, Director of Data Management and Analytics, CORE
- Li Li, PhD – Supporting Analyst, CORE
- Xin Xin, MS - Supporting Analyst, CORE
- Jeph Herrin, PhD – Statistical Consultant, CORE
- Nihar Desai, MD, MPH – Clinical Consultant
- Jaqueline Grady, MS – Statistical Consultant and Associate Director of Data Management and Analytics
- Susannah Bernheim, MD, MHS – Director of Quality Measurement, CORE
- Harlan Krumholz, MD, MS – Senior Advisor and Director, CORE

Measure Developer/Steward Updates and Ongoing Maintenance

Ad.2 Year the measure was first released:

Ad.3 Month and Year of most recent revision:

Ad.4 What is your frequency for review/update of this measure?

Ad.5 When is the next scheduled review/update for this measure?

Ad.6 Copyright statement:

Ad.7 Disclaimers:

Ad.8 Additional Information/Comments: