National Quality Forum

CALL FOR MEASURES AND MEASURE CONCEPTS:
Patient Safety Measures Project 2015-2017

NQF is seeking new measures and concepts in the areas of patient safety.

NQF is particularly interested in measures:
- measures of intermediate clinical outcomes or longer term health outcomes, including complications;
- composite performance measures;
- measures applicable to more than one setting;
- measures that capture broad populations, including children and adolescents where applicable;
- measures that are harmonized with similar measures; and,
- measures that are sensitive to vulnerable populations, including racial/ethnic minorities; and Medicaid populations.

This project launched **October 16, 2015**. The final submission deadline is **May 13, 2016**.

BACKGROUND

This project will evaluate measures related to patient safety that can be used for accountability and public reporting for all populations and in all settings of care. This project will address topic areas including, but not limited to, medication safety, falls, pressure ulcers, all cause and condition specific readmissions, and workforce issues.

MEASURE CONCEPTS

In addition to soliciting fully-developed measures for consensus-based endorsement review, NQF is also soliciting measure concepts through NQF's new Measure Inventory Pipeline. This pipeline will serve as an important source of information for HHS and other stakeholders on new measure development in the broader healthcare community. It will also enable NQF to track current and planned measure development to ensure early collaboration among developers to drive harmonization and alignment of measures.

In an effort to capture comprehensive information on measures in development, NQF seeks input on several variables including:
- measure description;
- numerator statement;
- denominator statement (target population);
- planned use,
- stage of development; and

Measure Submissions Due By MAY 13, 2016, 6:00 PM ET

- other relevant information.

Please note that the information entered through NQF's Measure Inventory Pipeline will not be evaluated by the Steering Committee against the NQF Criteria. Submitted information will be catalogued by NQF and used to help inform the Steering Committee's measure gaps discussion. NQF will also share the information with HHS to inform CMS' Measure Inventory Pipeline, which is a reference for several stakeholders.

NQF's Measure Inventory Pipeline will be available for concept submissions in November, 2013.

MEASURE SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

To submit a measure, please complete the following:

- [Measure Submission Form](#) Clicking on this link will redirect you to the webpage for this project, from which you can access the online measure submission form.
- [Measure Steward Agreement](#) Please note that no materials will be accepted without submission of a fully executed *Measure Steward Agreement Form.* All materials not meeting this requirement will be returned to the sender.

PROCESS PARTICIPATION

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

Scheduled meeting dates

Meeting	Date/Time
Standing Committee QA Call (2 hours)	July 19, 2016, 3:00-5:00PM EST
In-person meeting (2 days in Washington, DC)	July 27-28, 2016, All Day Meeting
Post-Meeting Webinar (2 hours)	August 8, 2016, 3:00-5:00PM EST
Post Draft Report Comment Webinar (2 hours)	October 25, 2016, 3:00-5:00PM EST

Materials must be submitted using the online submission form by 6:00 pm, ET [May 13, 2016]. If you have any questions, please contact, Project Manager Andrew Anderson, MPH, via e-mail at patientsafety@qualitymeasures.org.

Conditions for Consideration:

Measure Submissions Due By MAY 13, 2016, 6:00 PM ET

- The measure owner/steward verifies there is an identified responsible entity and process to maintain and update the measure on a schedule that is commensurate with the rate of clinical innovation, but at least every three years.[1]
- The intended use of the measure includes both public accountability and quality improvement.
- The measure is fully specified and tested for reliability and validity. Measures that are not tested will not be accepted in this project.
- The measure developer/steward attests that harmonization with related measures and issues with competing measures have been considered and addressed, as appropriate.
- The requested measure submission information is complete and responsive to the questions so that all the information needed to evaluate all criteria is provided.

Submission Guidance:
- Developer Guidebook:
  - A Developer Guidebook as has been created to assist developers in the measure submission and evaluation process. The Guidebook contains all the information developers need to know when submitting a measure to NQF.
- ICD-10-CM/PCS:
  - Beginning April 1, 2013 measures specified with administrative claims data must submit a set of ICD-9-CM and ICD-10-CM/PCS codes. Click here for further information on this requirement.
- eMeasures:
  - Must be specified in the Heath Quality Measures Format (HQMF) and use the Quality Data Model (QDM) and value sets vetted through the National Library of Medicine's Value Set Authority Center (VSAC);
  - Review the current measure evaluation criteria and guidance
- Composite measures:
  - Please notify project staff if you plan to submit a composite measure

Technical Assistance
NQF project staff will provide technical assistance to measure developers at any time during the measure submission process up to the submission deadline. Contact the project team with any questions about the criteria, how to answer the questions in the form, any technical issues with the online submission process… or anything else!

MEASURE SUBMISSION COMPLETENESS CHECKLIST
- ☐ Measure steward agreement or concept agreement is completed and signed

---

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

Measure Submissions Due By MAY 13, 2016, 6:00 PM ET

- ☐ All conditions for submission are met.
- ☐ There are responses in all fields on measure submission form (MSF) unless a particular item is not applicable as indicated in the item instructions.
- ☐ Attachments include: eMeasure specifications (S.2a) if applicable; data dictionary/code list (S.2b); Evidence and Measure Testing attachments.
- ☐ All URLs are active and accurate.
- ☐ Harmonization/competing measures: Did you present a plan for harmonization of the related/competing measures identified by staff during early identification/triage or justify submitting competing or non-harmonized measures? (see Harmonization process in the Developer Guidebook).
- ☐ Paired measures should be submitted on separate forms.
- ☐ An eMeasure must be specified in HQMF format, using QDM and value sets vetted through the VSAC.
- ☐ Composite performance measures: responses to the composite measure items are included.
- ☐ Both ICD-9 and ICD-10 codes are included

RESOURCES FOR MEASURE DEVELOPERS AND STEWARDS
For more details on measure submission and evaluation, please see:
- Submitting Standards Web Page
- Measure Evaluation Criteria Web Page

One these pages you will find the most current criteria and guidance for evaluating the criteria as well as examples of responses for the measure submission form, and special reports.

- Evidence Task Force Report
- Measure Testing Task Force Report
- Harmonization Report
- Competing Measures Report

Evaluation and Measure Submission Guidance:
- eMeasure Testing Guidance Report
- Guidance on Quality Performance Measure Construction
- Evidence and Importance to Measure and Report
- Measure Testing and Scientific Acceptability of Measure Properties
- Composite Evaluation Criteria
- Resource Use Measure Evaluation Criteria
- Endorsement Maintenance Policy

Measure Submissions Due By MAY 13, 2016, 6:00 PM ET