

**CALL FOR MEASURES AND MEASURE CONCEPTS:
Pediatric Quality Measure Endorsement**

NQF is seeking fully developed and tested pediatric performance measures; specifically high-priority performance measures that may be eligible for future use in the Core Set of Children's Health Care Quality Measures for Medicaid and CHIP (Child Core Set). High-priority pediatric quality measurement topics include, but are not limited to, the following areas:

- Child- and adolescent-focused clinical preventive services and follow-up (e.g. developmental screening follow up)
- Child- and adolescent-focused services for management of acute conditions (e.g. Pediatric Intensive Care Unit safety and quality; transitions between settings of care)
- Child- and adolescent-focused services for management of chronic conditions (e.g. care coordination for children with medical complexity; transition from pediatric- to adult-focused care)
- Cross-cutting topics on the quality of pediatric healthcare (e.g. quality of health care for children/adolescents in foster care)

NQF is particularly interested in:

- measures of intermediate clinical outcomes or longer term health outcomes, including complications and/or patient-reported outcome (PRO)-based performance measures;
- measures applicable to more than one setting; e.g., inpatient and outpatient, care coordination across settings;
- measures that are sensitive to vulnerable populations, including racial/ethnic minorities and low income populations;
- measures that target high impact aspects of care; e.g., morbidity and mortality, resource use;
- composite performance measures; and
- measures that are harmonized with similar measures.

This project launched **July 30, 2015**. The final submission deadline is **September 30, 2015**.

BACKGROUND

The Children's Health Insurance Reauthorization Act of 2009 (CHIPRA) accelerated interest and activity in pediatric quality measurement. CHIPRA led to the creation of a Pediatric Quality Measures Program through which seven grantee Centers of Excellence in Pediatric Quality Measurement (COEs) have been developing measures with support from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). AHRQ and CMS assigned the COEs high-priority topics for which measures needed to be refined or developed *de novo*, and years of concerted effort followed. Grant funding for the

COEs concluded in 2014 and select measures resulting from their development activities are ready for review for endorsement consideration by NQF and potential use in public and private-sector programs.

CHIPRA also provided for the creation of a core set of healthcare quality measures for children enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP (Child Core Set) and required that updates to the core set be released annually to ensure the best available measures are being used. Changes to the Child Core Set of measures are informed by the Measure Applications Partnership (MAP), a public-private partnership convened by the National Quality Forum (NQF). MAP provides input to HHS on the use of performance measures to assess and improve the quality of care.

This project will identify and consider for NQF endorsement performance measures to address high-priority topics within child health. A specialized focus on pediatric quality measurement is driven, in part, by the increasing recognition that health and healthcare needs of children are significantly different from those of adults. In addition, health in childhood sets the stage for a lifetime of downstream health outcomes.

MEASURE CONCEPTS

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

In an effort to capture comprehensive information on measures in development, NQF seeks input on several variables including:

- measure description;
- numerator statement;
- denominator statement (target population);
- planned use,
- stage of development; and
- other relevant information.



Please note that the information entered through NQF's Measure Inventory Pipeline will not be evaluated by the 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.

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
Steering Committee Orientation Webinar (2 hours)	October 21, 2:00-4:00PM EST
Workgroup Webinars (2 hours)	November 10, 2015 at 2:00-4:00PM ET November 12, 2015 at 2:00-4:00PM EST November 16, 2015 at 2:00-4:00PM EST November 18, 2015 at 2:00-4:00PM EST
In-person meeting (2 days in Washington, DC)	December 1, 2015 from 8:30 AM-5:00 PM EST December 2, 2015 from 8:00 AM-3:00 PM EST
Post-Meeting Webinar (2 hours)	December 10, 2015 3:00-5:00PM EST
Post Draft Report Comment Webinar (2 hours)	February 26, 2016, 1:00-3:00PM EST

Materials must be submitted using the online submission form by 6:00 pm ET, September 30, 2015. If you have any questions, please contact, Suzanne Theberge or Nadine Allen, at 202-783-1300 or via e-mail at PediatricPerformanceMeasures@qualityforum.org.



Conditions for Consideration:

- The measure owner/steward verifies there is an identified responsible entity and process to maintain and update the measure on a schedule that is commensurate with the rate of clinical innovation, but at least every three years.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

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



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

RESOURCES FOR MEASURE DEVELOPERS AND STEWARDS

For more details on measure submission and evaluation, please see:

- [Submitting Standards Web Page](#)
- [Measure Evaluation Criteria Web Page](#)

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](#)



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