



**CALL FOR MEASURES AND MEASURE CONCEPTS:  
Pediatric Quality Measure Endorsement 2016-2017**

NQF is seeking fully developed and tested pediatric performance measures, specifically high-priority performance measures that address measurement gap areas and those that can be utilized to help drive quality improvement at multiple levels of reporting (i.e. physician, health plan, and state). 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 to preventive services
- Child- and adolescent-focused services for management of acute conditions
- Child- and adolescent-focused services for management of chronic conditions
- Cross-cutting topics:
  - Quality of health care for children/adolescents in foster care
  - Care coordination

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;
- measures that are sensitive to vulnerable populations, including racial/ethnic minorities and Medicaid 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 **October 7, 2016**. The final submission deadline is **December 7, 2016, 6:00pm ET**.

**BACKGROUND**

A healthy childhood sets the stage for improved health and quality of life in adulthood. The Children's Health Insurance Reauthorization Act of 2009 (CHIPRA) accelerated interest in pediatric quality measurement and presented an unprecedented opportunity to improve the health care quality and outcomes of the nation's children, including the almost 40 million children enrolled in Medicaid and/or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). This work adds to the NQF pediatric measure work through the Measure Applications Partnership, which



continues its work to improve the resources available to monitor quality and facilitate quality improvement in Medicaid and CHIP.

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.

## 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 (payment program, public reporting, quality improvement with benchmarking, etc);
- 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 Committee against the NQF Criteria.** Submitted information will be catalogued by NQF and used to help inform the 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



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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.

### PARTICIPATION IN THE PROCESS

Measure developers are strongly encouraged to attend the Measure Developer Orientation webinar, as well as 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
Measure Developer Orientation Webinar (2 hours)	October 14, 2016, 1:00 – 3:00pm ET
Standing Committee Orientation Webinar (2 hours)	February 7, 2017 from 3:00 – 5:00 PM ET (optional for developers)
In-person meeting (2 days in Washington, DC)	March 2, 2017, 8:30am – 5:00pm ET March 3, 2017, 8:00am – 3:00pm ET
Post-Meeting Webinar (2 hours)	March 10, 2017, 12:00 – 2:00PM ET
Post-Comment Webinar (2 hours)	May 31, 2017, 3:00 – 5:00PM EST

**Materials must be submitted using the online submission form by 6:00 pm ET, December 7, 2016.** If you have any questions, please contact Suzanne Theberge at 202-783-1300 or via e-mail at [PediatricPerformanceMeasures@qualityforum.org](mailto: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.<sup>1</sup>
- 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

<sup>1</sup> Measure stewards must execute a Measure Steward Agreement with NQF.



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 Health 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.
- ☐ 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 and Guidance PDF](#)
- [Guidance on Quality Performance Measure Construction](#)
- [Endorsement Maintenance Policy](#)
- [What Good Looks Like - Measure Submission Examples](#)
- [Composite Measure Evaluation Guidance Report](#)
- [Patient Reported Outcomes Report](#)
- [eMeasure Feasibility Report](#)
- [Reserve Status Policy](#)