



The Measure Selection Criteria (MSC) are intended to assist MAP with identifying characteristics that are associated with ideal measure sets used for public reporting and payment programs. The MSC are not absolute rules; rather, they are meant to provide general guidance on measure selection decisions and to complement program-specific statutory and regulatory requirements. Central focus should be on the selection of high-quality measures that optimally address the National Quality Strategy's three aims, fill critical measurement gaps, and increase alignment. Although competing priorities often need to be weighed against one another, the MSC can be used as a reference when evaluating the relative strengths and weaknesses of a program measure set, and how the addition of an individual measure would contribute to the set.

## Criteria

### **1. NQF-endorsed measures are required for program measure sets, unless no relevant endorsed measures are available to achieve a critical program objective**

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*Demonstrated by a program measure set that contains measures that meet the NQF endorsement criteria, including: importance to measure and report, scientific acceptability of measure properties, feasibility, usability and use, and harmonization of competing and related measures.*

- Sub-criterion 1.1** Measures that are not NQF-endorsed should be submitted for endorsement if selected to meet a specific program need
- Sub-criterion 1.2** Measures that have had endorsement removed or have been submitted for endorsement and were not endorsed should be removed from programs
- Sub-criterion 1.3** Measures that are in reserve status (i.e., topped out) should be considered for removal from programs

### **2. Program measure set adequately addresses each of the National Quality Strategy's three aims**

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*Demonstrated by a program measure set that addresses each of the National Quality Strategy (NQS) aims and corresponding priorities. The NQS provides a common framework for focusing efforts of diverse stakeholders on:*

- Sub-criterion 2.1** Better care, demonstrated by patient- and family-centeredness, care coordination, safety, and effective treatment
- Sub-criterion 2.2** Healthy people/healthy communities, demonstrated by prevention and well-being
- Sub-criterion 2.3** Affordable care

### **3. Program measure set is responsive to specific program goals and requirements**

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*Demonstrated by a program measure set that is “fit for purpose” for the particular program.*

- Sub-criterion 3.1** Program measure set includes measures that are applicable to and appropriately tested for the program’s intended care setting(s), level(s) of analysis, and population(s)
- Sub-criterion 3.2** Measure sets for public reporting programs should be meaningful for consumers and purchasers
- Sub-criterion 3.3** Measure sets for payment incentive programs should contain measures for which there is broad experience demonstrating usability and usefulness (Note: For some Medicare payment programs, statute requires that measures must first be implemented in a public reporting program for a designated period)
- Sub-criterion 3.4** Avoid selection of measures that are likely to create significant adverse consequences when used in a specific program.
- Sub-criterion 3.5** Emphasize inclusion of endorsed measures that have eMeasure specifications available

### **4. Program measure set includes an appropriate mix of measure types**

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*Demonstrated by a program measure set that includes an appropriate mix of process, outcome, experience of care, cost/resource use/appropriateness, composite, and structural measures necessary for the specific program.*

- Sub-criterion 4.1** In general, preference should be given to measure types that address specific program needs
- Sub-criterion 4.2** Public reporting program measure sets should emphasize outcomes that matter to patients, including patient- and caregiver-reported outcomes
- Sub-criterion 4.3** Payment program measure sets should include outcome measures linked to cost measures to capture value

### **5. Program measure set enables measurement of person- and family-centered care and services**

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*Demonstrated by a program measure set that addresses access, choice, self-determination, and community integration*

- Sub-criterion 5.1** Measure set addresses patient/family/caregiver experience, including aspects of communication and care coordination
- Sub-criterion 5.2** Measure set addresses shared decision-making, such as for care and service planning and establishing advance directives
- Sub-criterion 5.3** Measure set enables assessment of the person’s care and services across providers, settings, and time

## 6. Program measure set includes considerations for healthcare disparities and cultural competency

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*Demonstrated by a program measure set that promotes equitable access and treatment by considering healthcare disparities. Factors include addressing race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, language, gender, sexual orientation, age, or geographical considerations (e.g., urban vs. rural). Program measure set also can address populations at risk for healthcare disparities (e.g., people with behavioral/mental illness).*

- Sub-criterion 6.1** Program measure set includes measures that directly assess healthcare disparities (e.g., interpreter services)
- Sub-criterion 6.2** Program measure set includes measures that are sensitive to disparities measurement (e.g., beta blocker treatment after a heart attack), and that facilitate stratification of results to better understand differences among vulnerable populations

## 7. Program measure set promotes parsimony and alignment

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*Demonstrated by a program measure set that supports efficient use of resources for data collection and reporting, and supports alignment across programs. The program measure set should balance the degree of effort associated with measurement and its opportunity to improve quality.*

- Sub-criterion 7.1** Program measure set demonstrates efficiency (i.e., minimum number of measures and the least burdensome measures that achieve program goals)
- Sub-criterion 7.2** Program measure set places strong emphasis on measures that can be used across multiple programs or applications (e.g., Physician Quality Reporting System [PQRS], Meaningful Use for Eligible Professionals, Physician Compare)