

# Measure Developer Webinar:

## *Harmonization and Alignment*



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*Monday, January 25, 2016*

# Agenda Items

- Welcome
- Value Set Harmonization
- Measure Applications Partnership (MAP): Alignment
- NQF Variation Project
- Q & A
- Next Steps/Announcements

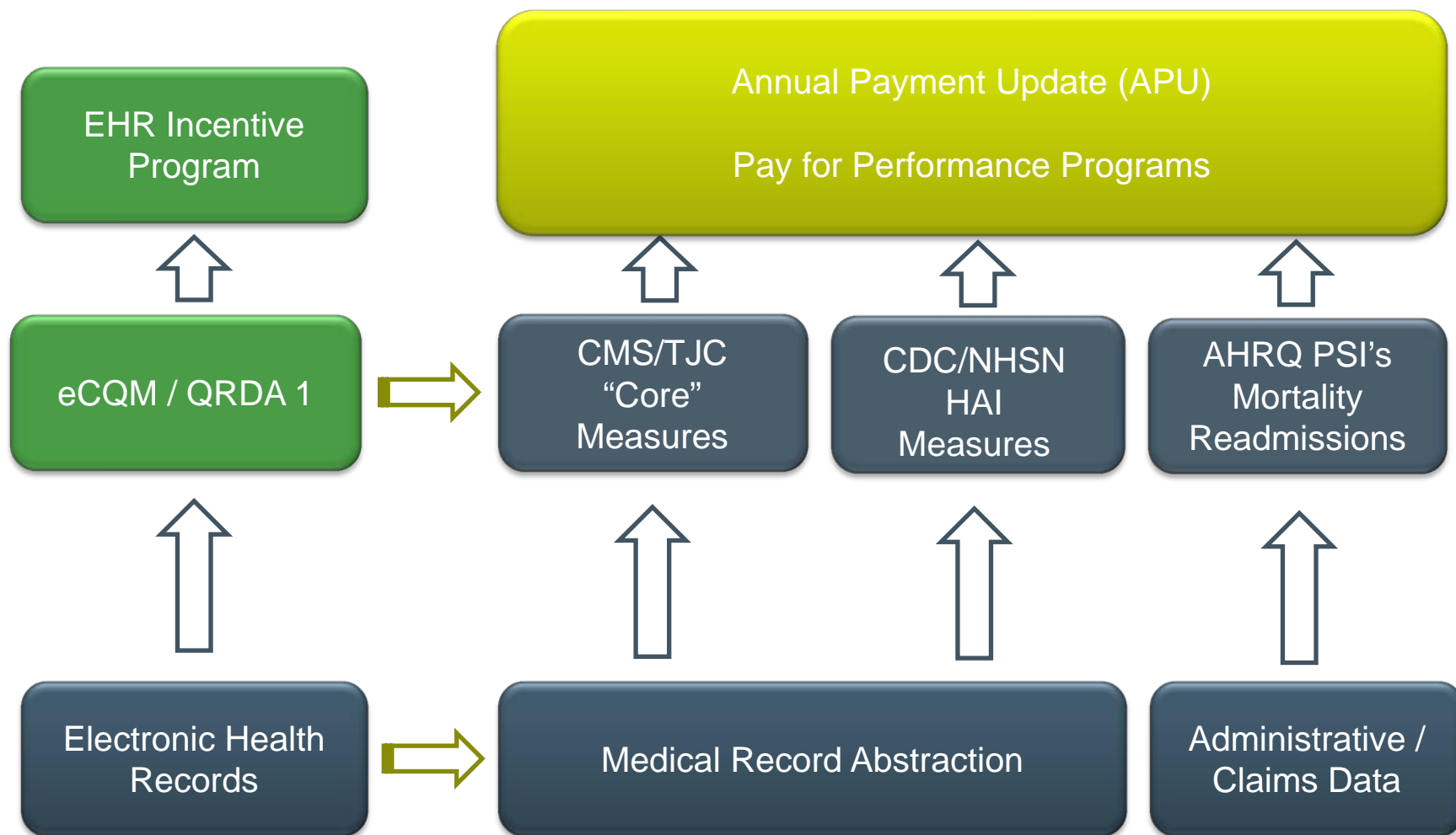
# Quality Measures & Value Set Harmonization Update

*Zahid Butt, MD, FACG  
Chief Executive Officer, Medisolv  
Columbia, Maryland*



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# *CMS Hospital Quality Reporting Program Alignment*



# Background:

## The Need for Value Set Harmonization

**Since the publication of Stage 2 of Meaningful Use in the EHR Incentive Program, more than 250 issues were reported by vendors and stakeholders.**

These issues include:

- Multiple competing value sets that address the same intended purpose, creating overlap and redundancy with other, similar value sets
- Inconsistencies between quality measure intent and value set intent and purpose
- Value sets that have “versioned” due to vocabulary updates or other updates, not correctly identified as such – and still freely available for use in measure development

# NQF Value Set Harmonization Project

- **Evaluate Value Sets**

- Test a process to resolve issues within value sets

- **Explore Governance Models**

- Defining high quality value sets
- Methodology to develop high quality value sets
- Core principles to maintain high quality value sets
- Encourage the use of high quality and harmonized value sets:
  - How the NQF endorsement process can be used to facilitate the use of high quality value sets
  - Ensure that the use of high quality value sets within quality measures is reflected in CMS programs.

# Measure Applications Partnership (MAP)

*Erin O'Rourke, Senior Director, NQF*



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# Measure Applications Partnership (MAP) Background

- The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) of 2010 required that the U.S Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) implement an annual federal pre-rulemaking process to provide input and gain consensus on the quality and efficiency measures being considered for public reporting and performance-based payment programs.
- MAP was formed in 2011 to serve as the multi-stakeholder entity to serve the role of providing recommendations on the measures under consideration by DHHS.



# Operationalizing Alignment

- MAP evaluates each measure under consideration (MUC) on whether it supports alignment across programs.
- MAP has referred to alignment in differing ways:
  - MAP promotes alignment as a critical strategy for:
    - » accelerating improvement in priority areas
    - » reducing duplicative data collection
    - » enhancing comparability and transparency of healthcare information
  - MAP assesses and promotes alignment of measurement across federal programs and between public- and private-sector initiatives to streamline the costs of measurement and focus improvement efforts

# Goals of Alignment:

- Reduce redundancy and create a comprehensive core measurement approach
- Send a clear and consistent message regarding the expectations of payers, purchasers, and consumers
- Reduce the costs of collecting and reporting data
- Enable comparison of providers
- Transform care in priority areas with notable potential for improvement
- Avoid confusion conflicts and duplication on the part of all stakeholders

# Potential Cautions about Alignment

- Balance the needs and goals of an individual program with the goal of alignment.
- Recognize that not all measures will be right for all programs; rather a measure may address a critically important issue for one program or setting.
- Balance the goal of alignment with the need for innovation.
  - Need to weigh the benefit of alignment against the benefit of a new measure.

# NQF Measure Variation Project



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*Andrew Lyzenga, Senior Director, NQF*

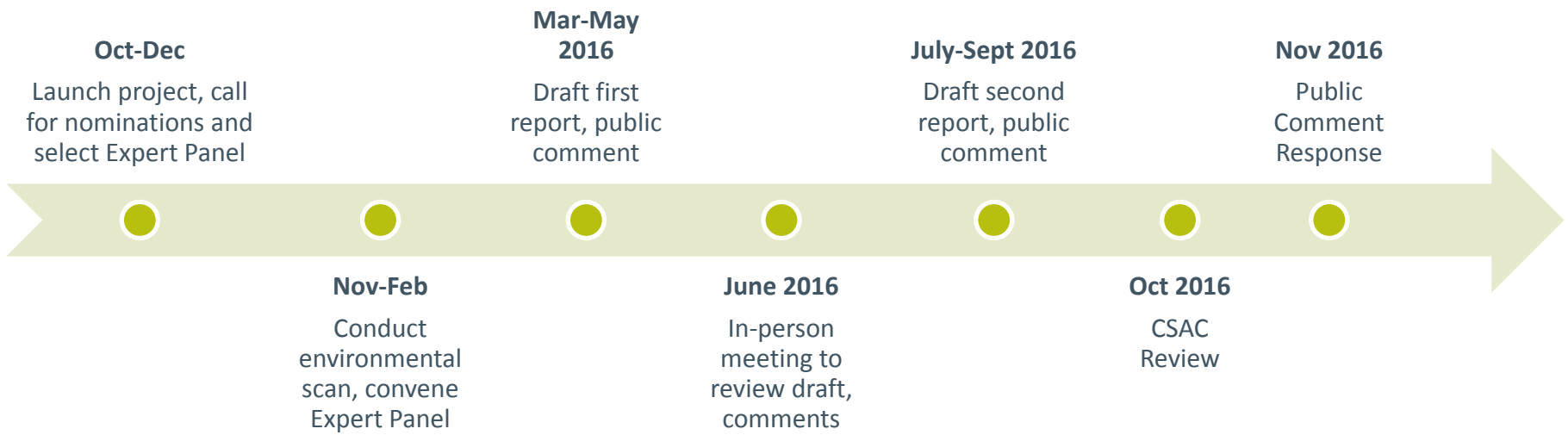
# NQF Measure Variation Project

- Variation in measure specifications:
  - Modification or ‘tweaking’ of existing measure specifications
  - Duplication of existing measures with slight differences
- Potential consequences:
  - Results in the proliferation of redundant measures across settings/programs
  - Adds to the burden of data collection and reporting for providers, with limited value in return
  - Reduces comparability of measure results across programs
    - » Limits opportunities for benchmarking
    - » Diminishes value for consumers, purchasers, and other measure users

# NQF Measure Variation Project

## ■ Project objectives:

- Identify how, where, and why variation is happening
- Describe threats to comparability
- Examine ways in which variation can be controlled
- Develop a tool or framework to identify and assess measure variation, and to help prevent or mitigate unnecessary variation





# Q&A

# 2015-2016 Measure Applications Partnership (MAP) Pre-Rulemaking

## Fall Web Meetings

- Clinician Workgroup - **October 8**
- Hospital Workgroup - **October 13**
- PAC/LTC Workgroup - **October 16**
- Coordinating Committee - **November 13**
- Dual Eligible Beneficiaries Workgroup – **January 13, 2016**
  - *Reviews recommendations from other groups and provide cross-cutting input during the second round of public comment*

## In-Person Meetings

- Clinician Workgroup - **December 9**
- PAC/LTC Workgroup - **December 14-15**
- Hospital Workgroup - **December 16-17**
- Coordinating Committee- **January 26-27, 2016**



# Next Steps

- Next scheduled NQF Measure Developer webinar will be Monday, February 22, from 1:00-2:00 PM EST.
- **Appeals Process:**
  - Commenting Period through February 22<sup>nd</sup>
- ***SAVE THE DATE***
  - Measure Developer Workshop: May 4-5, 2016