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Measure Developer Webinar

NQF Measure Maintenance Team

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Welcome

Agenda

- Measure Maintenance Overview
- Measure Developer Resources

Objectives

- Provide an overview of the measure maintenance process
- Highlight how the measure evaluation criteria are applied to measures undergoing maintenance review
- Review measure submission resources available to measure stewards and developers

Today's Presenters

- Kathryn Goodwin, MS, NQF Senior Director
- Mary McCutcheon, MPH, NQF Analyst

Overview of the Measure Maintenance Processes

Maintenance of NQF-Endorsed Measures

- Measure endorsement and maintenance processes enable the portfolio of measures to change over time, while continuing to provide consistency and currency for those individuals and organizations implementing the measures
- Endorsed measures are reviewed and maintained using the following three processes:
 - ▣ Measure Maintenance Review
 - ▣ Early Maintenance Review
 - ▣ Annual Update

Measure Maintenance Review

- Approximately ***every three years***, endorsed measures are re-evaluated against NQF's measure evaluation criteria and are reviewed alongside newly submitted (but not yet endorsed) measures.
- The head-to-head comparison of new and previously endorsed measures fosters harmonization and helps ensure NQF endorses the best available measures.
- As part of the maintenance review process, NQF is interested in how endorsed measures are being used. Measure users have the opportunity to submit comments on measures in use via NQF's measure search tool, the [Quality Positioning System \(QPS\)](#).

Measure Maintenance Review – Shift in Emphasis for Importance to Measure and Report Criterion

- Evidence: Decreased emphasis if the developer attests that the evidence for a measure has not changed since its previous endorsement evaluation.
 - ▣ The Committee may accept the prior evaluation without further discussion or need for a vote. This applies only to measures that previously passed the evidence criterion without an exception.
- Opportunity for Improvement (Gap): There is increased emphasis on current performance and opportunity for improvement.

Measure Maintenance Review – Shift in Emphasis for Scientific Acceptability Criterion

- Reliability and Validity
 - ▣ Specifications: There is no change in the evaluation of the current specifications.
 - ▣ Testing: Assuming the testing continues to meet current requirements, the Committee may accept the prior evaluation without further discussion and vote. There is less emphasis on testing if the developer has not presented additional or updated testing information.
 - ▣ For outcome measures, the Committee discusses questions related to adjustment for social risk factors, even if no change in testing is presented.

Measure Maintenance Review – Shift in Emphasis for Feasibility and Use and Usability Criteria

- **Feasibility:** The emphasis is the same for both new and previously endorsed measures, as feasibility issues might have arisen for endorsed measures that have been implemented.
- **Usability and Use:** Increased emphasis on the use of the measure, especially use for accountability purposes. Also increased emphasis on improvement in results over time and on unexpected findings, both positive and negative.
 - For maintenance measures, subcriterion 4a (Use) is “must-pass”.

Early Maintenance Review (Formerly Ad-Hoc Review)

- Occurs prior to the previously scheduled maintenance of endorsement date and follows the same process as a maintenance of endorsement evaluation.
- May be triggered in a variety of ways:
 1. A material change to an endorsed measure is submitted by a measure developer during an annual update.
 2. Directive by the Standing Committee or the CSAC to review a specific criterion sooner than the scheduled maintenance of endorsement evaluation.
 3. Request by a developer or third party. An early maintenance review can be requested by any party, as long as there is adequate evidence to justify the review.

Early Maintenance Review – Defining Material Change

- A material change is defined as any significant modification to the measure specifications that significantly affects the measure results such as:
 - a change to the population being measured (e.g., changes in age inclusions, changes in diagnoses or other inclusion criteria, changes in excluded populations, from one type of insured population to all-payer population);
 - changes to what is being measured (e.g., changes in target values like blood pressure or lipid values);
 - inclusion of new data source(s); or
 - expanding the level or changing unit of analysis or care settings (e.g., adding clinician-level to a measure that is endorsed for practice-level)

Annual Update

- Following endorsement of a measure, stewards have the option to submit a status report of the measure specifications.
- The steward/developer may request to provide an annual update by contacting measuremaintenance@qualityforum.org or by submitting a technical assistance request in the Measure Information Management System (MIMS).
- Submission will reaffirm that the specifications remain unchanged or outlines any changes or updates made since last endorsement.
- If any changes occur to a measure at any time within the three-year endorsement period, NQF asks the measure steward to immediately inform NQF of the timing and purpose of these changes.

Measure Developer Resources

Resources

- [Submitting Standards](#) Web Page
 - ▣ [Measure Evaluation Criteria and Guidance](#) Document
 - Includes evaluation algorithms for evidence, reliability, and validity
 - *Lays out the logic that committees will use for rating Evidence, Reliability, and Validity subcriteria*
 - ▣ [Measure Developer Guidebook](#)
 - Explains the NQF process and expectations for developers
- [Measure Information Management System](#) (MIMS):
 - ▣ NQF's web-based application for submitting measures
 - Available on MIMS Dashboard: FAQs, Measure Submission Tutorials, Intent to Submit Checklist, and more!
- [NQF Projects](#)
- [NQF Calendar](#)

NQF Technical Assistance

- Contact measuremaintenance@qualityforum.org for general inquiries or questions related to the Consensus Development Process (CDP), measure evaluation criteria, or technical assistance.
- Seek technical assistance from NQF staff **early and often**.
- Measure submission deadlines are firm, and extensions will not be granted.
- If you would like NQF staff to provide input on your draft submission, please contact the appropriate NQF project team (see next slide) and request technical assistance well in advance of the deadline.

THANK YOU.

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