Measure Developer Webinar

The NQF Measure Maintenance Team

August 17, 2020

Welcome

Agenda

- NQF Maintenance Team Introductions

- Updates to the Measure Developer Guidebook and Measure Evaluation Criteria
  - Guidance on Evaluating eCQMs and EHR-Sourced Measures
  - Early Maintenance

- Fall 2020 Cycle Updates

- Measure Developer Resources

Measure Maintenance Team

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Updates to the Measure Developer Guidebook and Measure Evaluation Criteria

Overview

- NQF to distribute updated versions to measure stewards/developers and make available on the NQF website in September 2020

- Updates include:
  - Clarification to guidance related to the evaluation of EHR-Sourced Measures
  - Updates to Early Maintenance Process (formerly Ad-Hoc Review)
  - Clarification on CSAC decision to not endorse a measure and send back to Standing Committee for reconsideration

Guidance on Evaluating EHR-Sourced Measures (including eCQMs/eMeasures)

- **EHR sourced measures** refers to measures that use data originating from an EHR system as the data source.

  - Includes measures that use data from a data set or a data aggregator where the data originally comes from an operational EHR system

  - Also includes **electronic clinical quality measures (eCQMs)** formerly referred to as **eMeasures**.

- An **eCQM** is a measure that is specified using the industry accepted eCQM technical specifications which currently include the health quality measure format (HQMF), the Quality Data Model (QDM), Clinical Quality Language (CQL), and value sets vetted through the National Library of Medicine's Value Set Authority Center (VSAC)

  - The purpose of using these technical standards is to ensure any Health IT system capable of supporting eCQM functionality can <u>automate calculation</u> of the measure

Guidance on Evaluating EHR-Sourced Measures (including eCQMs/eMeasures)

- Scientific Acceptability
  - Data element reliability testing is required for all EHR-sourced measures that use unstructured data fields
  - Data element validation is required for all EHR-sourced measures
    - » If data element testing is not possible, justification is required

- Consideration for Approval for Trial Use designation is for eCQMs only and not all EHR-sourced measures

- The feasibility scorecard will be required for all EHR- sourced measures

Early Maintenance (Formerly Ad-Hoc Review)

- Formal measure evaluation and endorsement reconsideration that occurs prior to the previously scheduled maintenance of endorsement date and follows the same process as a maintenance of endorsement evaluation

- Early Maintenance Triggers:
  - A material change to an endorsed measure is submitted by a measure developer during an annual update
  - Directive by the Standing Committee or the Consensus Standards Approval Committee (CSAC) to review a specific criterion sooner than the scheduled maintenance of endorsement evaluation
  - Request by a developer or third party (early maintenance review can be requested by any party, if there is adequate evidence to justify the review)

- Measure is evaluated against all measure evaluation criteria during a mutually agreed upon future cycle. If a measure remains endorsed after an early maintenance review, it is subject to maintenance of endorsement in approximately three years.

CSAC Decision to Send Measures Back to Standing Committee for Reconsideration

- The CSAC may send a recommended measure back to a Standing Committee for reconsideration if there are concerns with any of the rationale/criteria below:

  - ◻ Strategic importance of the measure

  - ◻ Cross-cutting issues concerning measure properties

  - ◻ Consensus development process concerns

- Measures undergoing maintenance review will retain endorsement as they area sent back to the Standing Committee for reconsideration

Fall 2020 Cycle Updates

Fall 2020 Updates

- Intent to Submit deadline was August 3rd

- Measures have been assigned to either the Scientific Methods Panel or NQF staff for preliminary review of the Scientific Acceptability criterion

- Full measure submissions deadlines are as follows:

Topic Area	Deadline
Behavioral Health and Substance Use Neurology Patient Safety Renal	November 1
All-Cause Admissions and Readmissions Cardiovascular Patient Experience and Function Perinatal and Women's Health Primary Care and Chronic Illness	November 8
Cancer Cost and Efficiency Geriatric and Palliative Care Prevention and Population Health Surgery	November 15

Measure Developer 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

- What Good Looks Like: examples of good submissions

- Blank copies of submission forms

- Resource Libraries:
  - Recordings of SMP and Developer Webinar meetings
  - On-demand educational recordings
  - TIPs for developers

Tips for Measure Developers

- General reminders:
  - Refer to the NQF Submitting Standards web page
  - Attend the bi-monthly measure developer webinars to ensure you are up to date with NQF timelines and process changes
  - Contact measuremaintenance@qualityforum.org for general inquiries or questions related to the Consensus Development Process (CDP), measure evaluation criteria, or technical assistance
  - Check your Dashboard regularly and verify the correct measure developer/steward contacts are listed. If this changes, please notify NQF immediately via the appropriate project mailbox. NQF uses the contacts listed in the Dashboard to send updates and reminders about deadlines related to your measure.

Tips for Measure Developers

- Measure Submission:
  - 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 and request technical assistance well in advance of the deadline
  - Submitting a measure includes two important deadlines: the Intent to Submit (ITS) deadline and the full measure submission deadline
    - **Intent to Submit** deadline occurs three months prior to the measure submission deadline and requires a testing attachment. "Intent to Submit" information will be due every year on January 5 and August 1

THANK YOU.

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