

Measure Developer Webinar



NATIONAL
QUALITY FORUM

Monday, September 28, 2015

Agenda Items

- **Welcome and Introductions**
- **Announcements**
 - Map 2015-2016 Pre-Rulemaking Activities
 - NQF New Projects
 - Restructuring Maintenance Updates
 - NQF Maintenance Webpage Updates
 - Intended Use TEP Updates
- **Educational Session**
 - What Happens After Measure Submission?
- **Q & A**
- **Next Steps**

***Announcements:
MAP 2015-2016
Pre-Rulemaking***

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

Fall Web Meetings

- Clinician Workgroup - **October 8, 11:00-1:00pm EST**
- Hospital Workgroup - **October 13, 12:00-2:00pm EST**
- PAC/LTC Workgroup - **October 16, 1:00-3:00pm EST**
- All MAP Web Meeting - **November 13, 2:00-4:00pm EST**
- Dual Eligible Beneficiaries Workgroup – **January 13, 11:00-1:00pm EST**
 - *Reviews recommendations from other groups and provide cross-cutting input during the second round of public comment*

In-Person Meetings

- Clinician Workgroup - **December 9-10**
- PAC/LTC Workgroup - **December 14-15**
- Hospital Workgroup - **December 16-17**
- Coordinating Committee- **January 26-27**

Announcements: NQF New Projects

NQF New Projects and Submission Deadlines

Project	Project Start	Measure Submission Deadline
All Cause Admissions and Readmissions (Phase 2)	10/9/2015	1/29/2016
Cancer	10/16/2015	3/11/2016
Cardiovascular (Phase 4)	10/23/2015	4/29/2016
Health and Well-being (Phase 3)	10/23/2015	6/30/2016
Neurology	10/9/2015	1/15/2016
Palliative Care	10/16/2015	2/29/2016
Patient Safety (Phase 3)	10/23/2015	5/13/2016
Perinatal	10/16/2015	2/16/2016
Person-and Family-Centered Care (Phase 3)	10/16/2015	3/31/2016
Pulmonary/Critical Care	10/9/2015	12/14/2015
Renal (Phase 2)	10/23/2015	4/15/2016
Surgery (Phase 3)	10/23/2015	5/31/2016

Announcements: Restructuring Maintenance Updates

Restructuring Maintenance Updates

Criteria #1: Importance to measure and report

Current State	Future State
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evidence – Quantity, quality, consistency (QQC)• Established link for process measures with outcomes	DECREASED EMPHASIS: Require measure developer to attest to current evidence; Standing Committee to affirm no change in evidence
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gap – opportunity for improvement, variation, quality of care across providers	INCREASED EMPHASIS: current performance, gap in care and variation

Restructuring Maintenance Updates

Criteria #2: Scientific Acceptability

Current State	Future State
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Measure specifications	NO CHANGE: Require updated specifications
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reliability• Validity (including risk-adjustment)	<p>DECREASED EMPHASIS: If prior testing adequate, no need for additional testing at maintenance with certain exceptions (e.g., change in data source, level of analysis, or setting)</p> <p>Must address the questions for SDS Trial Period</p>

Restructuring Maintenance Updates

Criteria #3-4: Feasibility and Usability and Use

Current State	Future State
Feasibility	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Measure feasible, including eMeasure feasibility	NO CHANGE: Implementation issues may be more prominent
Usability and Use	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Use: used in accountability applications and public reporting	INCREASED EMPHASIS: Much greater focus on measure use and usefulness, including both impact and unintended consequences
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Usability: impact and unintended consequences	

Restructuring Maintenance Updates: Maintenance Checklist for Maintenance Measures

- Maintenance Checklist
Link (walkthrough)

Announcements: NQF Maintenance Webpage Updates

NQF Maintenance Webpage Updates

The screenshot shows the NQF Submitting Standards webpage. The browser address bar displays http://www.qualityforum.org/Measuring_Performance/Submitting_Standards.aspx. The page features the NQF logo and navigation tabs: Setting Priorities, Measuring Performance, Topics, News & Resources, Events, and Membership. The 'Measuring Performance' tab is active, showing a sidebar with a list of links. The main content area is titled 'Submitting Standards' and includes sections for Performance Measures, Online Measure Submission, and Call for Measures. The right sidebar contains 'Related Information', 'NQF Resources', 'Measure Inventory Pipeline', and 'Downloads'.

Setting Priorities

- Measuring Performance
 - ABCs of Measurement
 - Consensus Development Process
 - NQF Projects
 - Submitting Standards**
 - Measure Maintenance
 - NQF-Endorsed® Standards
 - Improving NQF's Processes
 - Prioritizing Measures

Submitting Standards

Performance Measures

NQF endorses performance measures as voluntary consensus standards. Interested stewards and/or developers of performance measures may submit their candidate standards for consideration by NQF.

Online Measure Submission

To submit a performance measure, a steward must complete and electronically submit the online measure submission form for each measure they wish to submit to NQF for consideration.

NQF is using an online Measure Submission Form, Version 6.5. The online submission form includes a variety of features and allows the user to:

- Gain secure access to the submission form from any location with an internet connection;
- Save a draft version of the form and return to complete it at his or her convenience; and
- Print a hard copy of the submission form for reference.

To review the questions included in the [measure submission form](#), the [evidence attachment](#) and/or the [testing attachment](#), templates of the online forms are available below:

- [NQF Measure Submission Form \(DOCX\)](#)
- [NQF Evidence Attachment \(DOCX\)](#)
- [NQF Testing Attachment \(DOCX\)](#)

[View the Measure Submission Form Demonstration](#)

If the performance measure to be submitted is not owned by a government entity, the steward must also complete and submit a [Measure Steward Agreement \(PDF\)](#).

If a current measure stewards wishes to add new measures to their existing measure steward agreement, they must complete and submit a [Measure Steward Agreement Addendum \(PDF\)](#).

Call for Measures

In advance of most consensus development projects, NQF issues a formal call for candidate standards, customarily, performance measures. The online submission form can be accessed from the project page with the call for measures.

Open Submission Process

Measure developers are now able to begin a measure submission at any time. The purpose of providing the online submission form unrelated to a particular project is to give measure

Related Information

- [Electronic Quality Measures](#)
- [Health Information Technology](#)
- [Measure Submission Help](#)
- [Patient-Reported Outcomes](#)

NQF Resources

The [Field Guide](#) is an online resource designed to help you easily access NQF resources.

- [Access the Field Guide](#)
- [NQF Glossary \(PDF\)](#)
- [Standing Committee Policy \(PDF\)](#)
- [Standing Committee Guidebook \(PDF\)](#)
- [Developer Guidebook \(PDF\)](#)

Measure Inventory Pipeline

Explore NQF's new virtual space and learn about current and planned measure development activities.

[Access the Measure Pipeline](#)

Downloads

Measure Evaluation Criteria:

- [Access the 2015 Measure Evaluation Criteria and Guidance](#)

For more details on measure evaluation criteria, see the

NQF Maintenance Webpage Updates

The screenshot shows the 'NQF: Submitting Standards' page on the National Quality Forum website. The browser address bar shows the URL: http://www.qualityforum.org/Measuring_Performance/Submitting_Standards.aspx. The page has a navigation bar with 'About Us', 'News', and 'NQF Work' (with a dropdown arrow). A search bar is located on the right. The main content area is titled 'Call for Measures' and includes sections for 'Open Submission Process' and 'Measure Evaluation'. A sidebar on the right is titled 'Downloads' and contains links to various documents. Red annotations highlight specific areas: a red arrow points to the 'Downloads' sidebar header; a red oval encircles the entire sidebar content; two red arrows point to the 'Begin Your Measure Now' link in the 'Measure Evaluation' section.

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Call for Measures

Addendum (PDF).

In advance of most consensus development projects, NQF issues a formal call for candidate standards, customarily, performance measures. The online submission form can be accessed from the project page with the call for measures.

Open Submission Process

Measure developers are now able to begin a measure submission at any time. The purpose of providing the online submission form unrelated to a particular project is to give measure developers another venue to indicate readiness to NQF, regardless of topic. It also increases NQF's awareness and knowledge of what measures are in the measure development pipeline.

Please note: Using the online submission form to indicate "readiness" of a measure to NQF is not a formal submission of your measure to NQF for consideration of endorsement. Please notify NQF staff via measuremaintenance@qualityforum.org when you have completed a submission using this process. NQF staff will work with each developer to identify upcoming projects for which the measure may be appropriate and discuss next steps to enable submission of the measure.

Measure Evaluation

The measure submission form is intended to obtain information demonstrating that the criteria for endorsement have been met. NQF evaluates measures against standardized [Measure Evaluation Criteria](#) (PDF): Importance to Measure and Report, Scientific Acceptability of Measure Properties, Feasibility, Usability and Use, and requirements for Related and Competing Measures. Some performance measures such as resource use and composites may have some additional criteria. Information regarding the criteria can be found in the [Measure Evaluation Criteria Guidance](#) (PDF) document and in the [Restructuring NQF's Maintenance of Endorsement Process](#) (PDF) document.

Downloads

Measure Evaluation Criteria:

- Access the [2015 Measure Evaluation Criteria and Guidance](#)

For more details on measure evaluation criteria, see the following reports:

- [Reserve Status Report](#) (2014)
- [eMeasure Feasibility Report](#) (2013)
- [Composite Measure Evaluation Guidance Report](#) (2013)
- [Harmonization Guidance and Definitions](#) (2013)
- [Usability Report](#) (2012)
- [Patient Reported Outcomes Report](#) (2012)

Measure Submission Guidance:

- [ICD-10 Guidance and Requirements](#) (PDF)
- [Quality Measure Submission Form](#) (V6.5, 2013)
- [Cost and Resource Use Measure Submission Form](#) (V2.0, 2013)
- [Composite Measure Submission Form](#) (V2.0, 2013)
- [What Good Looks Like - Measure Submission Examples](#) (2013)

Archived Reference Material:

- [2013 Measure Evaluation Criteria](#)
- [2013 Measure Evaluation Criteria and Guidance on Evaluation](#)
- [2011 Measure Evaluation Criteria](#) (Submitted Jan 2011 - Nov 2012)
- [2009 Measure Evaluation Criteria](#) (Submitted PRIOR to Jan 2011)
- [Measure Evaluation Guidance Report](#) (2013)

Begin Your Measure Now

Announcements: Intended Use TEP Updates

Introduction

- NQF strives to continuously improve its processes to reflect the changing needs of the American healthcare system.
- Over the past several years, stakeholder groups have questioned whether endorsement should consider the specific intended or actual use(s) of a measure in its evaluation (e.g., in particular federal quality programs), and more broadly, whether the specific use of a measure should be included in the NQF measure endorsement criteria.
- This effort by the NQF Intended Use Advisory Panel seeks to consider the merit of and the various approaches to considering a measure's specific intended or actual use(s) as part of the measure endorsement process.

Background – Consensus Taskforce

In 2012, NQF's Board of Directors (BoD) empaneled a Consensus Task Force (CTF) that recommended that this Advisory Panel consider two potential new directions:

- **Endorsement of measures for a specific intended or actual use(s).** Consider endorsement for specific purposes (e.g., internal quality improvement, public reporting, payment), with consideration that measures may not be suitable for all potential uses..
- **Levels of endorsement by measure grading** (independent of use): Levels of endorsement would allow NQF to apply the same criteria to all measures, but to grade endorsed measures differently.

Intended Use Advisory Panel Charge

The Charge of this Panel was to:

- Discuss several critical topic areas, including identifying various use cases for NQF-endorsed measures, distinguishing among the use cases, and identifying the need, if any, for different measure attributes, depending on the specific intended or actual measure use(s);
- Examine if the NQF measure endorsement criteria requires updating;
- Propose a path forward on whether, and if so, how, to incorporate the specific use of measures in the endorsement process.

Request for Comment

Comment is open through September 30, 6:00pm

- The Advisory Panel seeks public comment on the key themes and the recommendations that emerged from its deliberations of the charge outlined by the NQF Board.
- The Panel will consider these comments during an upcoming comment call on October 20, 2015. Following this call, the recommendations will be finalized and presented to the Consensus Standards Approval Committee (CSAC) and the NQF Board.

Educational Session: What happens after measure submission?

What happens after measure submission?

Measure Submission Ends

- NQF staff reviews measures submitted to the project
- Confirm with developers that their measure submissions have been received along with next steps
- Confirm MSA/MSA Addendums are executed by measure steward and NQF General Council
 - **For first time submissions to NQF**
 - » MSA and MSA Addendum
 - **For measure developers with existing MSA:**
 - » MSA Addendum (if submitting new measures)
 - **Measures can not be evaluated by NQF until the MSA is fully executed**

What happens after measure submission?

- NQF staff reviews submission for completeness
- NQF solicits pre-meeting Member and public comments
- NQF staff prepares a preliminary analysis to assist the Committee
- Measure Worksheet Packets
 - » Staff Preliminary Analysis (include eMeasure review if required), pre-meeting public and member comments, and Committee's preliminary survey comments
 - Supporting submission materials
 - » ICD-9 and ICD-10 code data dictionaries, HQMF specifications, appendices, etc.
- Measure Document Sets are posted on Standing Committee's SharePoint page and are forwarded to developers.
- Hold Standing Committee Pre-Meeting Webinars
 - New Projects: Orientation Webinar, Q&A Webinars, Workgroup Webinars
 - Phased Projects: Measure Q&A Webinars

What happens after measure submission?

-eMeasure Review

- We review to ensure that the Simple XML, the Health Quality Measure Format (HQMF) XML, the Human Readable eMeasure Format and the Value Set Excel Spreadsheet are included in the submission
- We make sure that the developer used Version 2.0 of the HQMF (the most current version)
- We ensure each of these documents are complete
- We check to make sure the eMeasure Feasibility Scorecard, the Measure Information Form and the Measure Testing Attachment are include with the submission

What happens after measure submission?

-eMeasure Review

- We break out the Measure Description, the Measure Rationale, the Numerator/Denominator/Exceptions/and Exclusions from the Human Readable Format.
- We make sure there is consistency between the data elements in the eMeasure logic are in the measure specification
- We check that each of the Value Sets are published in the Value Set Authority Center (VSAC). If they are not, then the disposition of the value sets needs to be documented.
- We look for detail on the Feasibility Scorecard, including: data availability, data accuracy, data standards, workflows, and what types of EHRs were used in the testing itself (unless this is a measure being considered for trial use).



Q&A

NQF-Battelle Joint Webinar Series

Month	Topic	Organizer	Meeting Date
September 2015	Blueprint 101-Introduction to MMS	Battelle MMS	9/24/2015
October 2015	NQF Evidence Criteria including: Systematic Review (Algorithm), Guidelines, and Opportunities for Improvement	NQF	10/19/2015
November 2015	Blueprint 101-Measure Conceptualization	Battelle MMS	11/24/2015
December 2015	MUC Update	Battelle MMS	12/22/2015
January 2016	Harmonization Related and Competing Measures	NQF	1/18/2016
February 2016	Measure Inventory	Battelle MMS	2/25/2016
March 2016	Blueprint 101-Measure Specification	Battelle MMS	3/24/2016
April 2016	eMeasures	NQF	4/18/2016
May 2016	Environmental Scans	Battelle MMS	5/26/2016
June 2016	Blueprint 101-Measure Testing	Battelle MMS	6/23/2016
July 2016	Reliability and Validity Testing	NQF	7/18/2016

Next Steps

- Should you have any questions, please contact measuremaintenance@qualityforum.org.