



Measure Management and You

Volume 3, Edition 8

Welcome!

This month’s newsletter provides an overview on the Technical Expert Panels (TEPs) and eCQM feasibility – how stakeholders inform measure development. Every edition includes links to the CMS Blueprint (the version in use at the time of publication), as well as a calendar of upcoming events and opportunities.

We hope you find this newsletter useful and we welcome any feedback or suggestions to make it even better. Please send comments or suggestions for future newsletters to MMSSupport@battelle.org.

Technical Expert Panels

Technical Expert Panels (TEPs) are an effective forum for measure developers to promote transparency, support the inclusion of diverse perspectives, and ensure quality issues critical to patients, caregivers, and other stakeholders are carefully considered in the measure development process.

A TEP is a group of stakeholders and experts who contribute direction and thoughtful input to the measure developer in every phase of the measure development process. During the measure development process, TEP members may

- Review new measure concepts to help determine which should be selected for further development;
- Review the findings from testing for measures under development;
- Advise the measure developer on which measures should be submitted to CMS based on criteria such as whether patients will find the measure(s) meaningful and important; and
- Advise the developer on other quality measurement and measure development topics (e.g., gap

analysis for a program or measure development process improvements).

Benefits of Technical Expert Panels (TEPs)

TEPs ensure transparency in the measure development process and provide developers with input from multiple stakeholders.

CMS has worked with experienced developers to compile an array of best practices for TEP coordinators to ensure

- A diverse and highly qualified panel is objectively selected
- Patients and caregivers are central to the process
- Members can connect TEP objectives to agency goals
- TEP members are highly engaged in the work

A full description of the process for convening a TEP is provided in the [CMS MMS Blueprint \(Chapter 12: Technical Expert Panel\)](#).

For more information about TEPs and corresponding best practices, access the [full article](#) on the MMS website. Find out how to get involved by visiting the [Technical Expert Panels Currently Accepting Nominations link](#) also on the MMS website.

eCQM Feasibility: How Stakeholders Inform Measure Development

There are several things that CMS looks for when deciding whether a measure might be used in a quality reporting program: measures must be scientifically sound, meaningful to patients, and feasible for healthcare organizations and clinicians to report. Feasibility is an important part of CMS’ effort to minimize the cost and resource burden associated with quality measure reporting. CMS requires that all measures undergo feasibility testing before they can be used in one of the quality reporting programs.

For a measure to be considered feasible, it must rely on data that are readily

available and in a format that is usable for performance measurement. For electronic clinical quality measures (eCQMs), this means that data are stored in a format that allows for electronic extraction, and that those data are complete and accurate. To ensure that facilities and clinicians can report on these measures, the data should be coded to widely-recognized terminology standards or have the potential to be mapped consistently to those standards. When testing reveals

feasibility concerns, CMS works with developers to weigh the benefits of the

Did you Know?

eCQMs rely on nationally-recognized terminology standards for reporting. These standards improve the exchange of health information by creating a common language to define health concepts.

measure against the known feasibility challenges to decide whether the measure should be used in a program.

For more information on how developers assess feasibility and how providers and other stakeholders can get involved, see the [full article](#) on the MMS website.

Upcoming Events

All times shown are Eastern Time zone

- CY 2019 OPPTS/ASC Proposed Rule: Hospital Outpatient Quality Reporting (OQR) Program on August 22, 2018 at 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM
 - Register for event [here](#)
- Physician Fee Schedule Proposed Rule: Understanding 3 Key Topics Listening Session on August 22, 2018 at 1:30 to 3:00 PM
 - Register for event [here](#)
- CY 2019 OPPTS/ASC Proposed Rule: Ambulatory Surgical Quality Reporting (ASCQR) Program on August 23, 2018 at 2:00 PM
 - Register for event [here](#)
- PCHQR Program: FY 2019 IPPS/LTCH PPS Final Rule on August 23, 2018 at 2:00 PM
 - Register for event [here](#)

Upcoming Opportunities

Opportunities for [Public Comment](#) on quality measures

- Development and Implementation of Quality Rating System (QRS) Measures for Qualified Health Plans (QHPs)
 - The Call for Public Comment opened on August 10, 2018 and closes on August 28, 2018.

Please check the [CMS Quality Measures Public Comment Web Page](#) for current Public Comment announcements and summary reports.

Opportunities to participate in a [Technical Expert Panel \(TEP\)](#)

- MACRA Episode-Based Cost Measures – Call for Clinical Subcommittee
 - The TEP nomination period closed on March 20th, but nominations are being accepted on a continuous basis.

Please check the [CMS Quality Measures Call for TEP Web Page](#) for current TEP membership lists and meeting summaries.

New to the Listserv?

New to the listserv or missed a month? Find all our announcements as well as printer-friendly versions of past newsletters [here](#).



Please send comments and suggestions to MMSSupport@battelle.org