Blueprint 14.0

We are pleased to announce the release of the latest version of the *Blueprint* for the CMS Measures Management System, version 14.0. The Blueprint team reviewed more than 800 reviewer comments and suggestions. Thank you to all who provided comments. We welcome comments and suggestions at any time.

The format of this version remains the same as version 13.0:

- Section 1 is an introduction to quality measure development and the Measures Management System
- Section 2 is focused on high level information about the phases of the measure lifecycle
- Section 3 provides more detailed articles on topics associated with the measure lifecycle
- Section 4 includes the forms and templates for items to be submitted to CMS
- Section 5 contains the Glossary and Acronyms
- Section 6 contains the appendices

Many footnotes have been removed and replaced with inline hyperlinks. All the documents and websites cited in the *Blueprint* are now in a reference list, found in the appendices, most with hyperlinks to the sources. We have adopted a modified American Psychological Association (APA) format in that books and peer-reviewed journal articles are cited inline using the APA format. The reference list is also in APA format. Also new this year is an appendix on the use of JIRA in the different phases of the measure lifecycle.

A notable update to Version 14.0 is the inclusion of a discussion of CMS Priorities and the Meaningful Measures Initiative and Framework. Chapter 1 in Section 3: Healthcare Quality Strategies- highlights the updates to the CMS goals and priorities which are:

- Improve the CMS customer experience
- Usher in an era of state flexibility and local leadership
- Support innovative approaches to improve quality, accessibility, and affordability
- Empower patients and clinicians to make decisions about their health care

Specifically, CMS aims to:

- Increase the number of satisfied customers – clinicians, institutional providers, health plans, etc. engaged through direct and indirect outreach
- Decrease the number of hours and the amount of dollars clinicians and providers spend on regulatory activities
- Increase the proportion of tasks that CMS customers can do in a completely digital way

Chapter 2 in Section 3: Priorities Planning- has also been updated and discusses CMS' measure priorities planning. The legislative mandates section now includes the 21st Century Cures Act. The CMS Measures Inventory categories used in the CMS Measures Inventory Tool have been expanded to 11 categories.

The electronic clinical quality measure (eCQM) information has been updated to reflect the adoption of the Health Level Seven International (HL7) standard Clinical Quality Language (CQL). CQL replaces the logic expression previously found in the Quality Data Model (QDM). The QDM remains as the information model and allows for the definition of data elements. Because of the CQL adoption, there are several changes in both the Introduction to eCQMs (Chapter 6) and the eCQM Standards-Based Guidance and Tools (Chapter 7). In response to requests from stakeholders, we created two new graphics, one showing the connections between eCQM standards and a second depicting the relationship between the eCQM standards and tools. Two eCQM-related appendices have also been updated to reflect CQL changes.

The Measure Technical Specification chapter has been updated and reorganized (Chapter 17). Most of the information on measure calculations has been moved to an appendix. Some content that was duplicative with content in the Information Gathering chapter (Chapter 9) was removed from the Measure Technical Specification chapter.

The alpha and beta testing information has been combined with the Measure Testing (Chapter 22). The eCQM Testing section was updated (Chapter 24.2).

The National Quality Forum (NQF) revised their processes and rather than repeat content that is on the NQF website, we have streamlined the content to focus on the CMS aspects of submission to NQF for measure endorsement. The Measure Information Form, Measure Justification Form, and Measure Evaluation Report templates and instructions have been updated with cross references to the NQF submission documents.

We hope you find version 14.0 to be helpful and informative. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions on the Blueprint, please contact us at MMSSupport@Battelle.org. We look forward to your comments. You can find the *Blueprint* v14.0 on the CMS MMS Blueprint webpage.