

Welcome!

This month's newsletter includes a discussion of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Measures Inventory as well as the CMS Measures Management System (MMS) Process Review. Also, every edition includes a link to the latest CMS Blueprint as well as a calendar of upcoming opportunities and events.

We hope you find this newsletter useful and we welcome any feedback or suggestions to make it even better.

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Please send suggestions for future newsletters or questions about the MMS to MMSSupport@battelle.org.

The CMS Quality Measures Inventory

The CMS Quality Measures Inventory has been updated! At the beginning of February, the updated Quality Measures Inventory was uploaded onto the CMS [Measures Inventory Webpage](#).

While publishing the CMS Quality Measures Inventory meets the Affordable Care Act's requirement for the Department of Health and Human Services to develop a process for dissemination of quality measures, it also serves

as a tool for CMS to communicate with valued health care partners who are dedicated to optimizing health outcomes.

CMS posts an updated, full list of quality measures used within CMS programs quarterly. Measures include those which have been proposed, finalized, or removed through the federal rulemaking process. The CMS Quality Measures Inventory lists each measure by program, and reports measure specifications including, but not limited to: numerator,

denominator, exclusion criteria, National Quality Strategy domain, measure type, and National Quality Forum endorsement status.

The CMS Quality Measures Inventory serves as a resource for a variety of stakeholders to identify measures currently used in CMS programs.

Additionally, the Inventory serves as a valuable resource as CMS strives to align, prioritize, and implement the development of new, innovative measures.

The Inventory will continue to grow over the coming year. Future versions of the CMS Quality Measures Inventory will include measures from new programs, like the Merit Based Incentive Payment System, and initiatives that do not go through the Federal rulemaking process, e.g., Dialysis Facility Compare. Additionally, an updated list of Measures under Development will be published in the coming months. Updates and helpful hints on how to use the CMS Quality Measures Inventory, are highlighted in the accompanying [CMS Quality Measures Inventory User Guide](#).

Measures Management Up Close

Each month, we will bring you an introspective look at a measures management topic.

The Measures Management System Process

The MMS is a standardized approach for developing and maintaining *quality measures*, which are tools to help measure and quantify various aspects of healthcare in the United States. Quality measures are used to report data from hospitals, physicians, patients, and other healthcare organizations so that the aggregate data can be used to improve quality, report feedback to the public, and support pay-for-reporting programs for certain types of healthcare providers.

The ultimate goal of the MMS is to improve the quality of healthcare by making it more effective, safe, efficient, patient-centered, equitable, and timely. While the use of quality measures will help achieve this goal, there are numerous stakeholders involved in the development and management of quality measures, including

healthcare providers, patients, CMS, and measure developers. The MMS Blueprint documents the quality measure development and management process, which aims to ensure consistency and clearly define roles and responsibilities for each of the stakeholders.

The Blueprint maps out five major activities in the measure development process: conceptualize, specify, test, implement, and maintain. These activities are iterative and include ongoing evaluation and continuous improvement of both the quality measures and the MMS process itself.

For a more detailed summary and illustration of the MMS Blueprint activities, please see the [Quality Measure Development Lifecycle Overview](#) on the [MMS resources page of the CMS website](#). For detailed process information, see the [latest version of the MMS Blueprint](#).

Upcoming Opportunities

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

- End-Stage Renal Disease Evaluation of Potential Prevalent Comorbidity Adjustments in the Standardized Hospitalization Ratio (SHR) and the Standardized Mortality Ratio (SMR)
 - Public comment period opened February 8 and will close February 22.
- Hospital Inpatient and Outpatient Development of Access to Quality Advance Care Plans (ACP) Measure
 - Public comment period opened January 25 and will close February 24.
- End Stage Renal Disease Dialysis Facility Compare (DFC) Star Ratings Technical Expert Panel (TEP)
 - Public comment period opened February 16 and will close March 16.
- Revisions to the Standardized Transfusion Ratio (STrR)
 - Public comment period opened February 19 and will close March 4.

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 \(TEP\)](#)

- IMPACT Act of 2014: Development and Maintenance of Post-Acute Care Cross-Setting Standardized Patient Assessment Data
 - Call for TEP Nomination period opened February 12 and will close February 26.
- Quality Measure Development (QMD): Dual Enrollees, Managed Long-Term Services and Supports (MLTSS), and Medicaid Innovation Accelerator Program (IAP). Task: Duals, MLTSS, and Medicaid IAP-Community Integration TEP
 - Call for TEP Nomination period opened February 10 and will close March 8.
- Quality Measure Development (QMD): Dual Enrollees, Managed Long-Term Services and Supports (MLTSS), and Medicaid Innovation Accelerator Program (IAP) Task: Medicaid IAP-SUD, BCN, and PMH TEP
 - Call for TEP Nomination period opened February 10 and will close March 8.
- End-Stage Renal Disease Emergency Department Visits
 - Call for TEP Nomination period opens February 19 and will close March 21.
- Quality of Patient Care Star Ratings Technical Expert Panel
 - Call for TEP Nomination period opens February 24 and will close March 18.

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

MMS Support is upgrading its services!

In the near future, all requests sent to the MMS Support Inbox (MMSSupport@battelle.org) will be serviced through a new ticketing system CIT Service Desk. This new ticketing system will help MMS Support by sorting cases into appropriate task categories and then alerting appropriate MMS Support staff.

What does this mean for you?

- Continue to send *new* submissions and questions to MMSSupport@battelle.org.
- When you receive replies from MMS Support, it will come from a new email address from Battelle, so please add “battelle.org” to your safe sender list!
- When responding to an email from MMS Support, you should *reply to that email* and keep the body of the previous email in your response. The new ticketing system incorporates an ID code that it uses to automatically track responses to a case and keep all correspondence sorted together.
 - If you ever need a revision or want to reply to an older request, please make sure you respond to the last correspondence from Battelle related to that case.



Upcoming Events

- Hospital VBP Program webinar titled “Overview of the Hospital Value-Based Purchasing (VBP) Fiscal Year (FY) 2018” on February 23, 2016 at 2 p.m.
 - Register for the webinar at the following link:
<https://cc.readytalk.com/r/mhkbqdiphjhj&eom>
- Ambulatory Surgical Center Quality Reporting program webinar titled “ASC: Tools for Success” on February 24, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.
 - Register for the webinar at the following link:
<https://cc.readytalk.com/cc/s/registrations/new?cid=yqhym5wwjgp1>
- PPS-Exempt Cancer Hospital Quality Reporting (PCHQR) Program webinar titled “PCHQR Program Updates and Lessons Learned” – February 25, 2016 at 2 p.m.
 - Register for the webinar at the following link:
<https://cc.readytalk.com/r/togmj6npwotw&eom>
- Physician Compare Public Reporting Information Sessions
 - February 23, 2016 at 12:00 pm ET
 - February 24, 2016 at 4:00 pm ET
 - February 25, 2016 at 11:00 am ET
 - Register for the webinars at the following link:
<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=zsutycuab&oeidk=a07ebztgh7h06eb5ae7>