

Measures Management and You

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

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Welcome!

Happy New Year and welcome to the inaugural issue of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Measures Management newsletter!

This monthly newsletter will bring you the latest information about measure management as well as a calendar of upcoming opportunities and events. *Measures Management and You* is geared towards a broad audience with a shared interest in measures management, including measure developers, healthcare associations, providers, and others.

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

Please send suggestions for future newsletters to MMSSupport@battelle.org.

Measures Management and You

Quality measures are used to evaluate healthcare quality and to provide a basis for improving healthcare programs across the United States. CMS uses the Measures Management System (MMS) to standardize the business processes and tools for creating, implementing, and maintaining quality measures. CMS also relies on the [Blueprint for the CMS Measures Management System](#) (“Blueprint”) to document the best practices for developing measures and evaluating quality of care.

For nearly fifteen years, measure developers have followed the Blueprint in the development and implementation of quality measures. The Blueprint is regularly updated and is currently in version 11.2.

Contents

Welcome!.....1

**Measures Management
and
You.....1**

**What’s New with the
Blueprint?.....2**

**Measures Management Up
Close.....2**

**Upcoming Opportunities
and
Events.....3**

[“Measures Management and You”, continued from page 1]

CMS also holds events to reach out to the public and elicit feedback on the measure development process and on specific quality measures. Measure developers post requests on CMS’

website for public comment on their measures, or solicit public participation in review groups.

[Technical Expert Panels \(TEPs\)](#) are a type of review group that reviews quality measures and makes recommendations on their use or improvement. TEPs are comprised of individuals with various areas of expertise and backgrounds.

What’s New with the Blueprint?

Here’s the latest information on updates to the Blueprint.

The following updates are included in version 11.2, which was released this month:

- More details on the *communication and governance roles* between CMS and measure developers
- An expanded discussion on *person and family (caregiver) participation and engagement*
- Additional guidance on the development of the *business case* for a measure
- Further discussion of *measure classification* by domain, NQS priority, and setting
- Clarifying language on *different measure types*
- Extensive new detail and template for *environmental scans*
- *Standardized semantics* for measure titles, descriptions, numerator/ denominator statements, etc.

The next iteration of the Blueprint, version 12.0, is anticipated for release in April 2016.

Measures Management Up Close

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

The History of the Measures Management System. In October 2003, CMS launched a project to design and implement the MMS. The CMS MMS Blueprint was designed based on the quality measurement work at CMS, augmented by the best practices of other major measure developers. Sound business process management principles such

as Lean methodology were also incorporated.

Since its initial release, the Blueprint has been updated regularly to reflect changes in the regulatory environment, such as initiation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Blueprint updates also reflected changes in healthcare

quality measurement science, industry trends, National Quality Forum (NQF) policies and processes, and the evolving needs of measure developers. On an ongoing basis, input from stakeholders such as CMS staff and measure developers is collected systematically and considered for incorporation in subsequent versions.

Upcoming Opportunities and Events

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

- End-Stage Renal Disease Vascular Access Measure Development
 - Public Comment period opened on January 6 and closes on February 5.
- End-Stage Renal Disease Access to Kidney Transplantation Measure Development
 - Public Comment period opened on January 6 and closes on February 5.
- Hospital Inpatient Electronic Specification for a Re-engineered Influenza Immunization Measure (IMM-2), NQF #1659
 - Public comment period to open by the end of January
- Hospital Inpatient and Outpatient Development of Access to Quality Advance Care Plans (ACP) Measure
 - Public comment period to open by the end of January

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

- Currently there are no open TEP nominations. Please check the [CMS Quality Measures Call for TEP Web Page](#) for current TEP membership lists and meeting summaries.

Other upcoming events

- Inpatient Quality Reporting (IQR) Outreach and Education Webinar titled “IPPS Measure Waivers and Extraordinary Circumstances Exemptions” - January 19, 2016, at 2:00-3:00 p.m. EST
 - Register for the webinar at the following link:
<https://cc.readytalk.com/r/sid4b3vt8up&eom>
- ESRD QIP: Payment Year 2019 Final Rule Call – January 19, 2016 at 2:00-3:30 p.m. EST
 - To register, visit [MLN Connects Event Registration](#)
- Hospital Outpatient Quality Reporting program webinar titled “OQR: Hospital OQR 2016 Specifications Manual Update” – January 20, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 a.m. EST
 - Register for the webinar at 10 a.m. at the following link:
<https://cc.readytalk.com/cc/s/registrations/new?cid=m6fm6g61izqg>
 - Register for the webinar at 2 p.m. at the following link:
<https://cc.readytalk.com/cc/s/registrations/new?cid=llh4oqmgx28>
- Ambulatory Surgical Center Quality Reporting (ASCQR) Program webinar titled “ASC 2016 Specifications Manual Update” - January 27, 2016 at 2:00-3:00 p.m. EST
 - Register for the webinar at the following link:
<https://cc.readytalk.com/cc/s/registrations/new?cid=ujwmhbk9dw4r>