



Measure Management and You

Volume 3, Edition 1

Welcome!

This month's newsletter provides an overview of access measures as well as data sources for quality measures. 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.

Access Measures

Measuring access to care is challenging as there are many different factors that influence a patient's access to healthcare. Access is more than whether an individual can go to a healthcare provider and receive services. An access measure must also consider the suitability of the clinician providing the care, the appropriateness of care delivered, the timeliness of the care administered, the comfort level between patient and provider, and the ability of the patient to understand what's happening throughout the continuum of care. Access measures also evaluate such things as the distance an individual must travel to receive services, whether the individual has the means to travel and pay for the services, and if access to these services are denied or reduced due to demographic characteristics. Section 4302(a) of the [Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act](#) (Affordable Care Act) requires the collection of some patient demographic data, which has improved the ability to assess quality based on demographics.

This ACA section required the Secretary of HHS to develop data-collection standards for a minimum of five demographic categories: race, ethnicity, sex, primary language, and disability status for federally conducted or supported health care or

public health programs, activities, or surveys. The availability of this data allows for a better understanding of patterns in healthcare disparities and lack of access and help ensure that beneficiaries have access to and receive excellent care and that the quality of care is assessed fairly in CMS programs regardless of their demographic characteristics.

For more information on access measures, see the [full article](#) on the MMS website.

Data Sources for Quality Measurement

Data are essential for quality measurement. Data provides the various elements needed to calculate a quality measure. Therefore, identifying and selecting the best source(s) of data for a quality measure is critical to reliability, validity, and feasibility of the measure. Reliability measures the repeatability of the data elements. Validity addresses the correctness of the data elements. Feasibility relates to the ability to use a specific data source and ease of collection of the individual data elements from the data source. Selecting the best source(s) of data for a quality measure is critical. The data source affects the reliability, validity, and feasibility of the measure. Using multiple data sources for

one measure is possible, but the measure specification must provide detail as to how each data source is to be used, such as the Hybrid Hospital-Wide Readmission measure that uses both claims data and EHR data.

CMS uses a variety of data sources for its quality reporting and incentive programs. The data source(s) will depend on the measure type. For example, administrative claims data are used to determine the Medicare Spending per Beneficiary measure. Patient medical records are used for the data needed to calculate Depression Utilization of the PHQ-9 Tool measure. An example of a measure that can use different data sources is Diabetes: Eye Exam. This measure can use administrative claims data, EHR data, or registry data.

Most data sources provide patient-specific information. However, aggregate, and administrative data can also be used. Aggregate data are used as part of quality measurement, for example calculating benchmarks for regional or national comparative rates. Structural measures often use non-patient administrative data such as staffing information or information about organizational policies. Use of other types of data such as census data may be incorporated into quality measures.

For more information on data sources, see the [full article](#) on the MMS website.

Upcoming Events

All times shown are Eastern Time zone

- CMS Measures Inventory Tool (CMIT) and the CMS Measures Inventory: Updates to the System and the Data webinar on January 17, 2018 at 2:00 PM
 - Register for the event [here](#)
- Hospital Outpatient Quality Reporting (OQR) Program 2018 Specifications Manual Update on January 17, 2018
 - Register for the event at [10:00 AM](#) or [2:00 PM](#)
- Cooking with CQL: or How to Incorporate CQL into HQMF for eQCMs webinar on January 18, 2018 at 4:00 PM
 - Register for the event [here](#)
- ESRD QIP: Final Rule for CY 2018 Call on January 23, 2018 at 1:30-3:00 PM
 - Register for the event [here](#)
- Ambulatory Surgical Center Quality Reporting (ASCQR) Program 2018 Specifications Manual Update on January 24, 2018 at 2:00 PM
 - Register for the event [here](#)
- Adapting Clinical Guidelines for the Digital Age – Kaizen Event on February 5-9, 2018
 - Register for the event [here](#)

Upcoming Opportunities

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

- Electronic Clinical Quality Measure (eCQM) Development and Maintenance for Eligible Professionals (EP eCQM)
 - Public Comment period opens on January 10, 2018 and closes on February 9, 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 \(TEP\)](#)

- Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) Improvement Activities (IA) Technical Expert Panel (TEP)
 - The TEP nomination period opened December 11, 2017 and closes on January 12, 2018.

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