



# Measure Management and You

Volume 3, Edition 7

## Welcome!

This month’s newsletter provides an overview on technical specifications 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](mailto:MMSSupport@Battelle.org).

## Technical Specifications

This month’s newsletter provides an overview of technical specifications for clinical quality measures: what they are, how they are used, and how to interpret them. Quality measures are tools that help improve health care quality in the U.S. by measuring healthcare processes or outcomes. All measures include detailed technical specifications to promote consistent reporting and interpretation by measure users.

Technical specifications (or “measure specifications”), provide details about the measure. They describe:

- what is being measured
- what patient populations will be included
- what patient populations should not be included (and why)
- where and how to find the information required to report on the measure
- how to calculate measure results.

To communicate the technical specification, a measure is made up of several parts. It has a **title** and **description**. It must also have a **numerator**, **denominator**, and in some

cases, **denominator exclusions**. The technical specification includes a detailed description of each part and explains how to use them to get a measure score.

- The **numerator** is the measure focus; it describes the process or outcome expected for the target population.
- The **denominator** defines the population being measured.

- The **denominator exclusion** describes patients who meet the denominator criteria but who should not receive the intervention being measured.

Measure developers draft specifications early in the development process and update them after measure testing. For more information on how to read and interpret technical specifications, see the [full article](#) on the MMS website.

*Table 1. Description and example of measure components*

Measure component	Example
<b>Initial Population</b>	Inpatient discharges 6 months of age and older
<b>Denominator</b>	Acute care hospitalized inpatients age 6 months and older discharged during October, November, December, January, February or March.
<b>Numerator</b>	Inpatient discharges who were screened for influenza vaccine status and were vaccinated prior to discharge if indicated
<b>Denominator Exclusions</b>	Patients who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expire (die) prior to discharge</li> <li>• Had an organ transplant during the current hospitalization</li> <li>• Patients discharged to another acute care hospital</li> <li>• Patients who leave against medical advice</li> </ul>
<b>Exceptions</b>	Patients for whom vaccination was indicated, but supply had not been received by a hospital due to problems with vaccine production or distribution

## Upcoming Events

**All times shown are Eastern Time zone**

- IPFQR Program- Keys to Successful FY2019 Reporting on July 11, 2018 at 1:00PM
  - Register for event [here](#)
- PCHQR Program – A Review and What’s New for August 2018 Submissions on July 12, 2018 at 2:00PM
  - Register for event [here](#)
- The Abstraction Challenge Show: Real Questions, Real Answers - ASCQR Program webinar on July 18, 2018 at 2:00 PM
  - Register for the event [here](#)
- Cooking with CQL: or How to Incorporate CQL into HQMF for eQMs webinar on July 26, 2018 at 4:00 PM
  - Register for the event [here](#)

## Upcoming Opportunities

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

Currently there are no open public comments. 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](mailto:MMSSupport@Battelle.org)**