



Measure Management and You

Volume 3, Edition 5

Welcome!

This month’s newsletter provides an overview of CMS’s Meaningful Measures Initiative. 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.

CMS’s Meaningful Measure Initiative

CMS continuously works to find ways to reduce burden and costs on providers while empowering patients. By identifying the highest priorities for quality measurement and improvement, the Meaningful Measures initiative provides a framework for core issues that are most vital to improving patient outcomes.

Based on stakeholder feedback on the growing number of quality measures and the burden of quality measure reporting, CMS incorporated diverse stakeholder feedback to develop the Meaningful Measures initiative. Meaningful Measures creates a framework to:

- Lowering providers’ reporting burden,
- Focusing on quality improvement in only the most critical areas,
- Adopting the most meaningful quality measures, and
- Getting better patient outcomes at lower costs.

This framework will guide CMS in the reduction of reporting burden on providers while focusing quality improvement efforts on only the most critical areas through the adoption of the most meaningful quality measures to drive better patient outcomes at lower costs. By promoting the importance

of quality measurement and increasing the understanding of measurement by individuals and caregivers, the Meaningful Measure initiative emphasizes the patient’s needs, values, preferences and health outcomes as a top priority.

The Meaningful Measures Framework has the following objectives:

- Address high-impact measure areas that safeguard public health,
- Patient-centered and meaningful to patients,
- Outcome-based where possible,
- Fulfill each program’s statutory requirements,
- Minimize the level of burden for health care providers,
- Significant opportunity for improvement,
- Address measure needs for population-based payment through alternative payment models, and
- Align across programs and/or with other payers.

In order to achieve these objectives, CMS has identified 19 Meaningful Measures areas and mapped them to six overarching quality priorities as shown in the following graphic.

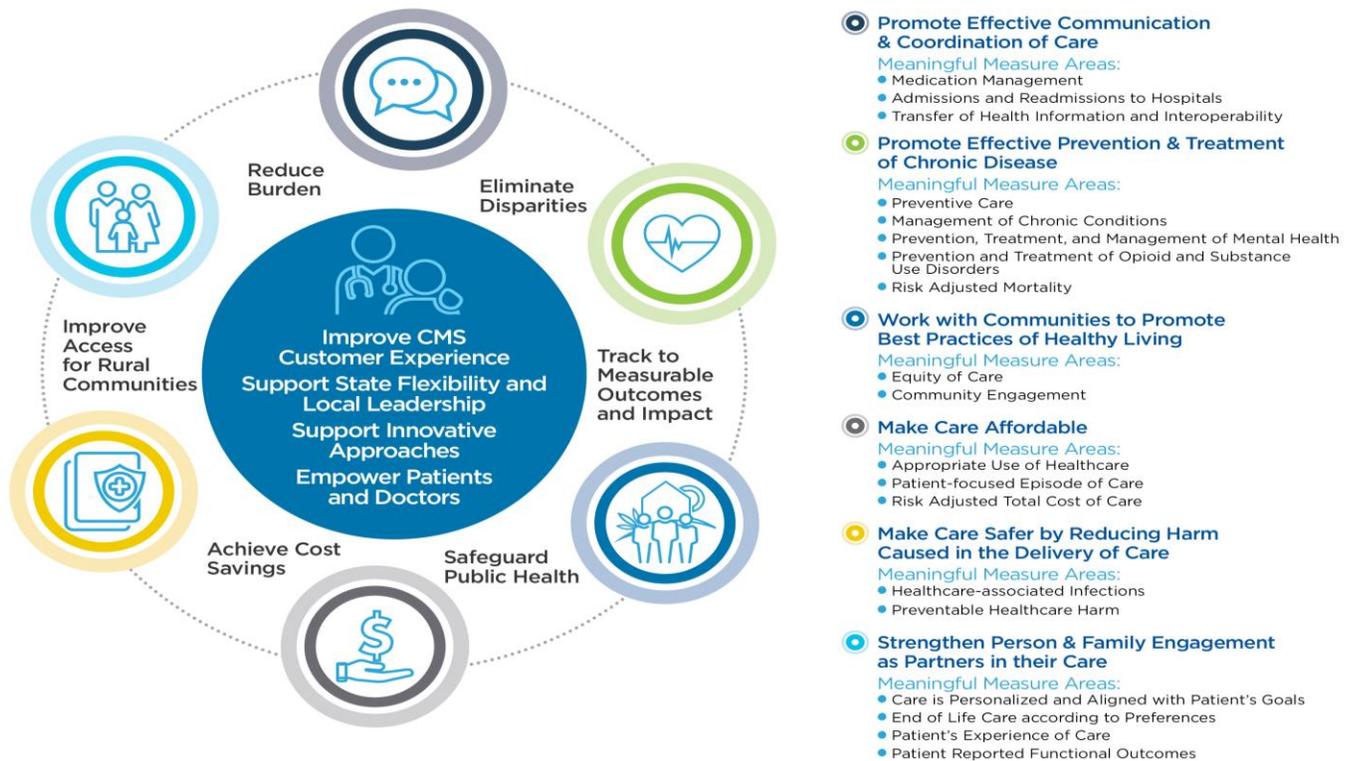
The framework is based on CMS’ 4 strategic goals, interpreted through the lens of 6 cross-cutting criteria, under 6 quality priorities aligning the 19 Meaningful

Measures areas. For example, the quality priority “Promote Effective Prevention and Treatment of Chronic Disease” includes 5 Meaningful Measure areas. One of these 5 Meaningful Measure areas is Prevention and Treatment of Opioid and Substance Use Disorders because the opioid crisis has been declared a public health emergency and is a high priority for measurement. This example shows how coordinating cross-cutting criteria like safeguarding public health and measures in the quality priority, “Promote Effective Prevention and Treatment of Chronic Disease” work together to address this important public health issue and ultimately help meet CMS’ strategic goals: empowering patients and doctors to make decisions about their health care; ushering in an era of state flexibility and local leadership; supporting innovative approaches to improve quality, accessibility, and affordability; and improving the CMS customer experience.

The Meaningful Measures initiative is not intended to replace any existing programs, create new requirements, or mandate new measures. The purpose is to help programs identify and select individual measures and increase measure alignment across CMS programs and other public and private initiatives to make sure that the agency points to high priority areas.

For more information, see CMS’ [Meaningful Measures website](#).

Figure 1: Meaningful Measure Framework Diagram



Special Announcements

Now Open! JIRA MUC Project 2018 – CLOSES JUNE 15th (June 1st for MIPS-Quality measures)

JIRA is now open to collect candidate measures for the CMS 2018 Measures under Consideration (MUC) List. If you are an authorized user of the 2017 or prior years' JIRA web interface for the MUC List, you should have access to the new 2018 MUC Project.

New candidate measures for most CMS programs will be accepted until June 15, 2018. If you have a **quality** measure for Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS), the last day to submit your measure in JIRA is June 1, 2018.

For access to JIRA and the 2018 MUC Project, you must have an ONC JIRA account in place and then be granted permission to the Project. Visit the [CMS Pre-Rulemaking website](#) to locate the [Measures under Consideration User Guide](#) and [Quick Start Guide](#) for more information.

Email MMSSupport@battelle.org for more information.

2018 Pre-Rulemaking calendar

June 1, 2018	JIRA closes for MIPS-Quality measure submissions
June 15, 2018	JIRA closes for all other programs
December 1, 2018	2018 MUC List published

CMS Provides Clarification on Eligibility Criteria for MACRA Measure Development Cooperative Agreements

On May 3, 2018, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services updated and republished the "Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA) Funding Opportunity: Measure Development for the Quality Payment Program" on

Grants.gov to reflect an eligibility criteria update in order provide further clarification. As a reminder, the application due date was extended to May 30, 2018 at 3:00 PM ET as a result of stakeholder inquiries about the application process.

You can find the 'Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA) Funding Opportunity: Measure Development for the Quality Payment Program' by searching the title or Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number, 93.986 on [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov).

Please visit our [webpage](#) on the CMS website for a list of frequently asked questions and transcripts of our Pre-application conference calls held in March.

2018 Measure Development Plan (MDP) Annual Report

On May 3, 2018, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) posted the 2018 Quality Measure Development Plan (MDP) Annual Report, which describes progress in developing clinician quality measures to support the Quality Payment Program. The [CMS Quality Measure Development Plan](#) (MDP) is a focused framework to help develop and improve these measures, point out the known measurement and performance gaps, and recommend prioritized approaches to close those gaps. The 2018 Measure Development Plan Annual Report supplements the Measure Development Plan with additional information to support measure development and records progress since the first annual report in 2017. The 2018 Annual Report describes efforts including identifying and developing meaningful outcome measures, partnering with patients in the measure development process, partnering with clinicians and professional societies, and funding new measure development.

The strategic approach to measure development outlined in the Measure Development Plan and additional findings in the Measure Development Plan annual reports provide information and support to key stakeholders who develop clinician quality measures for consideration for the Quality Payment Program.

For more information about the 2018 Measure Development Plan Annual Report, go to the Quality Payment Program measure development page at <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Payment-Program/Measure-Development/Measure-development.html>

Upcoming Events

All times shown are Eastern Time zone

- FY 2019 IPPS Proposed Rule Acute Care Hospital Quality Reporting Programs Overview webinar on May 9, 2018 at 2:00-3:30 PM
 - Register for the event [here](#)
- PCHQR Program: Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 IPPS/LTCH PPS Proposed Rule webinar on May 10, 2018 at 2:00 PM
 - Register for the event [here](#)
- Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting (IQR) Program Calendar Year 2017 (FY 2020 Payment Determination) eCQM Validation Overview for Selected Hospitals webinar on May 15, 2018 at 2:00 PM
 - Register for the event [here](#)
- FY 2019 IPPS Proposed Rule: Overview of eCQM Reporting and Promoting Interoperability Program Proposals webinar on May 16, 2018 at 2:00 PM
 - Register for the event [here](#)
- Quality Payment Program: Answering Your Frequently Asked Questions Call on May 16, 2018 at 1:30-3:00 PM
 - Register for the event [here](#)
- IPFQR Program: FY 2019 IPF PPS Proposed Rule webinar on May 17, 2018 at 2:00 PM
 - Register for the event [here](#)

Upcoming Opportunities

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

- Quality Measure Development and Maintenance for CMS Programs Serving Medicare-Medicaid Enrollees and Medicaid-Only Enrollees: Improving or Maintaining Mental Health in Younger Dual Eligible Adults and Improving or Maintaining Mental Health in Younger Dual Eligible Adults
 - The two Call for Public Comments opened on April 13, 2018 and close on May 10, 2018.
- Hospital Inpatient and Outpatient Process and Structural Measure Development and Maintenance. Task 1: Safe Use of Opioids – Concurrent Prescribing. Task 2: PC-02 Cesarean Birth
 - The Call for Public Comment opened on April 9, 2018 and closes on May 16, 2018.
- Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) III
 - The Call for Public Comment period opens on April 10, 2018 and closes on May 16, 2018.
- Inpatient Psychiatric Facility (IPF) Outcome and Process Measure Development and Maintenance (Screening for Pregnancy)
 - The Call for Public Comment opened on May 4, 2018 and closes on May 31, 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 \(TEP\)](#)

- 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.



Please send comments and suggestions to MMSSupport@battelle.org

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](#).