

## Provider Participation in the Quality Measurement Development Process

### What are quality measures?

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) quality measures are tools that help evaluate and quantify associated with the ability to provide high-quality health care:

- Healthcare outcomes—These are measures of the results of care. For instance, did a person who had surgery get an infection?
- Patient perceptions—These are measures of how patients feel about their experiences. For instance, how would a patient rate the responsiveness of the nursing staff?
- Organizational structures—These are measures of the impact of how providers organize work and assign responsibilities.
- Healthcare processes—These are measures of the steps taken to provide care. For instance, did the hospital physician send the primary physician a summary of the hospitalization?

Quality measure development is a process that includes identifying, creating, testing, implementing, and maintaining quality measures. Involving providers in measure development efforts is one way that CMS ensures that people receive high quality healthcare and the best health outcomes. CMS uses quality measures in its quality improvement, public reporting, and pay-for-reporting programs for specific healthcare providers.

### Why should you help CMS with quality measure development?



Provider input is a key process to ensure that measures developed and maintained are effective for accountability, for quality improvement, and are useful to healthcare consumers. Transparency that includes input from those being held accountable is another key component, ensuring that the value added by the measure outweighs the burdens of collecting and reporting the data.

### How can you help?

There are several ways. One is to be a member of the Technical Expert Panel, or TEP, for a specific measure. A TEP is a group of stakeholders and experts, including healthcare providers, who provide input to measure developers. TEP members are chosen based on their expertise, personal experience, diversity of perspectives, background, and training. You can see what panels are now being formed on the [TEP page of CMS's website](#).

You can also participate in the [public comment](#) period for a proposed measure. The public comment period provides an opportunity for interested parties to provide input on the measures under development and to provide critical suggestions not previously considered by the measure developer or by the TEP.

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*Attend the [CMS Open Door Forums](#) designed to address the concerns and issues of Medicare and Medicaid physicians, non-physician practitioners, nurses, and other allied health care professionals. You will find additional resources for providers on the CMS site [here](#).*

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Measure Phase	Activity	Technical Expert Panel (TEP)	Public Comment
<b>Conceptualization</b>	Information Gathering—to give input on topics and importance	X	X
	Information Gathering—commenting on the summaries of the TEP meetings		X
	Refining the candidate measure list	X	
	Applying the measure evaluation criteria to the candidate measures	X	
	Feasibility assessment, especially for eMeasures (is the data readily available)	X	
<b>Specification</b>	Constructing technical specifications	X	
	Commenting on the draft specifications and TEP summaries		X
	Risk adjusting outcome measures	X	
<b>Testing</b>	Analyzing test results	X	
	Reviewing updated measure evaluation and updated specifications	X	
	Reviewing TEP summaries of testing results and updated specifications		X
<b>Implementation</b>	Responding to questions or suggestions from the NQF Steering Committee	X	
	Commenting on the MUC (Measures under Consideration) list		X
	Commenting on the MAP (Measure Application Partnership) report		X
	Commenting on the measure during the NQF Consensus Development Process		X
	Commenting on the proposed federal rules		X
	Commenting on the Federal Register Notices		X
	Providing feedback during CMS listening sessions and town hall meetings		X
<b>Use, Evaluation and Maintenance</b>	Reviewing measure performance during comprehensive reevaluations	X	
	Meeting as needed to review other information, specifications, and evaluation	X	
	Commenting on NQF endorsed measures		X
	Commenting on summaries of TEP meetings		X

Table 1: Examples of Opportunities for Participation during the Process