

Measures Management and You

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

September 2016

[Edition 8, Volume 1]

Welcome!

This month's newsletter discusses Public Comments, as well as a review of Harmonization and its importance in the CMS Measures Management System (MMS). Every edition includes a link to the latest CMS Blueprint as well as a calendar of upcoming opportunities and events.

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.

Measures Management & You Public Comments

The [public comment](#) process provides opportunities for stakeholders to give suggestions and feedback on proposed and active measures. Requesting comments early in the measure development process is a best practice to identify any potential issues or concerns that should be addressed. During the conceptualization, specification, testing, and evaluation phases, the measure developer requests comments on the summaries of the [Technical Expert Panel](#) (TEP) meetings, draft technical specifications, and testing results. During the implementation phase, public comments are requested as part of the federal rulemaking process and the National Quality Forum (NQF) [consensus development process](#).

Contents

Welcome!	1
Measures Management & You <i>Public Comments</i>	1
Measures Management Up Close <i>Harmonization</i>	2
Upcoming Events	3
Upcoming Opportunities	3

Measure Developers work with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) contracting officer representative (COR) to prepare a [request](#) to post the call for comments on the [Measures Management System](#). The developer notifies known relevant stakeholder organizations, such as medical societies or groups that may be affected by the measure, about the public comment period. After the comment period closes, a summary of the received comments will be posted. The measure developer convenes the TEP to discuss the comments and to gather recommendations to consider regarding the measures. See the [Calendar of Events and Timelines](#) for the latest public commenting

periods, last day for TEP nominations and other CMS events.

CMS is committed to ensuring that public comments are addressed efficiently, effectively and in a timely manner. Measures are thus developed using a transparent process with balanced input from a variety of interested parties. Calls for public comment that are

currently active can be viewed on the [MMS Public Comments page](#).

The Blueprint recommends a Public Comment period for each phase of the measure lifecycle as early input can reduce work in later phases. For detailed information on public comments, see Section 3, Chapter 11 of the [latest version of the MMS Blueprint](#).

Measures Management Up Close

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

Harmonization in the Measures Management System Process

When specifying and managing measures throughout the measure development process, measure developers should consider if similar measures exist for the same condition, process of care, outcome, or care setting. Measures that address either the same topic or the same population are considered to be related measures, while measures that address both the same topic and the same population are considered competing measures.

Measure harmonization is defined as standardizing specifications for related measures when they:

- Have the same measure focus (numerator criteria)
- Have the same target population (denominator criteria)
- Apply to many measures (such as age designation for children)

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services expects measure developers to consider

harmonization as one of the core measure evaluation criteria that are applied throughout the measure lifecycle. The earlier in the process related or competing measures are identified, the sooner problematic issues may be resolved.

CMS seeks to harmonize quality measures so they can be used in multiple CMS programs and care settings, and then aligned with other federal programs and private sector initiatives as much as is reasonable. When these objectives are realized, it becomes possible to compare the care that is provided in different settings. For example, if the influenza immunization rate measure is calculated the same way in hospitals, nursing homes, and other settings, it is possible to compare the achievement for population health across the multiple settings.

For detailed information and examples of measure harmonization and related ideas such as measure alignment, see Section 3, Chapter 14 of the [latest version of the MMS Blueprint](#).

Upcoming Events

SNF Quality Reporting Program Webcast on September 14, 2016 at 1:30-3:00 p.m. ET

- Register for the event [here](#)

National Partnership to Improve Dementia Care and QAPI Call on September 15, 2016 at 1:30-3:00 p.m. ET

- Register for the event [here](#)

FY 2017 IPPS Final Rule IPFQR Program Changes, APU Determination and Reconsideration Review on September 15, 2016 at 2:00-3:00 p.m. ET

- Register for the event [here](#)

2016 PQRS Reporting Measures Series, Session 2: Measures Overview on September 20, 2016 at 1:00-2:00 p.m. ET

- Register for the event [here](#)

SNF Value-Based Purchasing Program Call on September 28, 2016 at 1:30-3:00 p.m. ET

- Register for the event [here](#)

IMPACT Act: Data Elements and Measure Development Call on October 13, 2016 p.m. ET

- Register for the event [here](#)

Upcoming Opportunities

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

Inpatient Psychiatric Facility (IPF) Outcome and Process Measure Development and Maintenance

- Public comment period opens August 25, 2016, and will close on September 15, 2016.

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 \(TEP\)](#)

CMS Quality Measure Development Plan: Supporting the Transition to the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) and Alternative Payment Models (APMs)

- TEP nominations open August 29 and will close September 15.

Please check the CMS Quality Measures Call for TEP Web Page for current TEP membership lists and meeting summaries.

New to the listserv or miss a month? Find all of our announcements [here](#).

Please send comments and suggestions to MMSSupport@battelle.org.

