

# TEP Topic Overview

## Clinical Quality Measures and Technical Expert Panels

A transformation is underway in our healthcare system, driven by performance measurement, and the stakes are higher than ever to ensure that robust clinical quality measures (CQMs) are available across all settings. Through the efforts of quality measurement and quality improvement, critically important metrics at the national level have improved, including decreasing:

- hospital readmission rates
- central-line associated blood stream infections
- surgical site infections
- early elective deliveries
- ventilator-associated pneumonia

These real and measurable improvements increase the length and quality of people's lives. Because an important use of quality measures is to provide information to patients and clinicians on the quality of care provided, CQM's like these depend on people like you participating in Technical Expert Panels to make them a working reality.

## What is a Technical Expert Panel (TEP)?

As a member of a TEP, you will join a group of stakeholders and experts whose direction and thoughtful input is critical to each phase of the measure development process. The TEP may be engaged for a single phase or throughout the development of the measure. This can include:

- Reviewing proposed measure concepts based on findings from the environmental scan and gap analysis conducted by the project team;
- Reviewing measure specifications and testing results, and
- Advising the measure developer on which measures should be recommended to CMS.

## TEP Expectations

Individuals participating on the TEP:

- Represent diverse perspectives, personal experiences, expertise, and backgrounds.
- Should understand that their input may be disclosed to the general public.
- Must disclose any significant financial interest or other relationships that may influence their perceptions or judgment.
- Will commit to the anticipated timeframe needed to perform the functions of the TEP. For example, a typical TEP will require regular meetings via webinar with time to review materials prior to the meetings.
- Are committed to quality healthcare improvement and engage in discussions accordingly.

## Your Experience and Expertise Are Needed

Your contributions as a TEP member will help ensure that input into measure development is received from a diverse group of stakeholders, thus ensuring:

- The patient perspective is included;
- The front-line clinician burden is considered; and
- A balanced panel is formed that includes nationally recognized experts in the relevant fields, including clinicians and consumers.

## Get Involved.

Nominate yourself for a TEP to share your experiences, help develop CQMs, and improve the quality of health care delivery. Please visit the [CMS TEP webpage](#) to see what panels are forming today near you.

