

Associations and Specialty Societies 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 measure the results of care. For instance, did a person who had surgery get an infection?

Patient perceptions measure how patients feel about their experiences. For instance, how would a patient rate the responsiveness of the nursing staff?

Organizational structures measure the impact of how providers organize work and assign responsibilities.

Healthcare processes measure 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 associations and specialty societies as stakeholders 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?



The input into and participation of healthcare related associations and specialty societies throughout the development process helps to give CMS a variety of thoughtful inputs on proposed measures and helps your organization to achieve its mission of supporting its members' needs.

How can you help?

There are several ways. One is to nominate an association member or a staff member to represent the association as a member of the Technical Expert Panel, or TEP, for a specific measure. A TEP is a group of stakeholders and experts, including representatives from associations and specialty societies, 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 work with your membership to participate in the [public comment](#) period for a proposed measure. Public comment periods provide 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.

Goal 1: Make care safer by reducing harm caused in the delivery of care.

Goal 2: Strengthen person and family engagement as partners in their care.

Goal 3: Promote effective communication and coordination of care.

Goal 4: Promote effective prevention and treatment of chronic disease.

Goal 5: Work with communities to promote best practices of healthy living.

Goal 6: Make care affordable.

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In the table below, you will find some examples of opportunities where you can participate during the quality measurement development process through the TEP or public comment periods:

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