

## **CMS Response to Public Comments on Non-Recommended PSA-Based Screening Measure**

### **Project Title**

Electronic Clinical Quality Measures (eCQM) Development and Maintenance for Eligible Professionals

### **Dates:**

- The call for public comment for the draft eCQM, 'Non-Recommended Prostate-Specific Antigen (PSA)-Based Screening,' ran from October 26, 2015 to November 20, 2015.
- The Public Comment Summary was submitted on Friday, January 22, 2016.

### **Project Overview**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has contracted with Mathematica Policy Research and its partners to develop, electronically specify, and maintain electronic clinical quality measures for use in CMS quality reporting programs for eligible professionals. The name of the contract is Electronic Clinical Quality Measures Development and Maintenance for Eligible Professionals. The contract number is HHSM-500-2013-130111. As part of its measure development process, CMS has requested interested parties to submit comments on the Non-Recommended PSA Screening measure.

### **CMS Response to Public Comments**

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) held a public comment period from October 26, 2015, to November 20, 2015 on the draft electronic clinical quality measure (eCQM), "Non-Recommended Prostate-Specific Antigen (PSA)-Based Screening." During the comment period, CMS received 358 comments. Of the 358 comments received:

- 58% contained statements opposing limitations on PSA screening for the general male adult population;
- 40% contained comments that disagreed with the United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) guidelines on which the draft measure is based, or with other evidence cited in the draft measure specifications;
- 34% included personal stories about patients' experiences with prostate cancer or cancer screening.

We thank you for your comments. Mathematica Policy Research is developing this appropriate use measure under contract with CMS with the intent to reduce inappropriate use of PSA-based screening. The harm of unnecessary testing can lead to overtreatment or over diagnosis of prostate cancer, which may outweigh the possible benefits. CMS strongly encourages measure developers to solicit broad stakeholder input through public comment and other means early in the measure development process and to continue to collect feedback throughout the measure development life cycle.

We appreciate your comments and feedback on the draft eCQM “Non-Recommended PSA-Based Screening.” We have heard the concerns and recommendations from many stakeholders. Based on this feedback, CMS will continue to work with the American Urological Association as well as engage additional members of the community such as providers and patients. By taking the time to engage stakeholders in reviewing the electronic specifications, we can then determine the path forward for this eCQM. We seek to develop quality measures that facilitate effective, safe, efficient, patient-centered, equitable, and timely care.

## **Update as of March 24, 2016**

As a result of public comment, CMS has temporarily suspended development of the draft measure “Non-Recommended Prostate-Specific Antigen (PSA)-Based Screening”. CMS will continue to solicit input from multiple stakeholders, including specialty societies, to determine whether a re-structured appropriate use PSA measure should be developed. If CMS determines that a different measure should be developed, any new proposed measure would be sent to the Measures Application Partnership again for its review. CMS will continue to evaluate appropriate use measure concepts to address overuse and patient safety on prostate cancer screening, as well as additional measure gap areas.