



# **Final 2015 Quality Rating System Beta Test Measure Set**

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## Document Purpose

This document outlines the quality measures that Qualified Health Plan (QHP) issuers operating in all Health Insurance Marketplaces (or Exchanges) are required to report as part of the 2015 Quality Rating System (QRS) beta test and provides a full list of measures that are intended to be required as part of the 2016 QRS measure set. CMS will release detailed measure specifications for each of the measures in the fall of 2014.

## Background

The Affordable Care Act establishes quality-related requirements for QHP issuers and Marketplaces including a system to rate QHPs on the basis of quality and price (section 1311(c)(3)) and an enrollee satisfaction survey system to assess enrollee experience with each QHP (with more than 500 enrollees in the previous year) offered through a Marketplace (section 1311(c)(4)). As established in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; Exchange and Insurance Market Standards for 2015 and Beyond Final Rule,<sup>1</sup> QHP issuers that offer coverage during the 2014 coverage year are required to participate in the 2015 beta test for the QRS and QHP Enrollee Experience Survey (QHP Enrollee Survey). The 2015 beta test will provide QRS ratings feedback to QHP issuers and Marketplaces prior to public reporting of these data to consumers during the 2016 open enrollment period for the 2017 coverage year.

On November 19, 2013, CMS released proposed QRS measures for public comment in the “Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; Exchanges and Qualified Health Plans, Quality Rating System (QRS), Framework, Measures, and Methodology” Federal Register Notice (FRN) (CMS-3288-NC).<sup>2</sup> The FRN outlined the proposed measures as well as the measure selection process. The National Quality Forum (NQF) convened a Measures Application Partnership Health Insurance Exchange Task Force (Task Force) and provided input and recommendations on the proposed measures in January 2014.<sup>3</sup> After analyzing public comments and the Task Force recommendations, CMS has finalized the measure set for the 2015 QRS beta test and the intended measure set for the 2016 public reporting year.

## Summary of Refinements

As part of the proposed QRS measure sets, CMS developed a QRS measure set and a separate child-only QRS measure set for child-only QHPs. At the present time, CMS continues to monitor

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<sup>1</sup> Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; Exchange and Insurance Market Standards for 2015 and Beyond; Final Rule; (FR Display date May 16, 2014).

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2013/11/19/2013-27649/patient-protection-and-affordable-care-act-exchanges-and-qualified-health-plans-quality-rating>

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.qualityforum.org/Publications/2014/01/Input\\_on\\_the\\_Quality\\_Rating\\_System\\_for\\_Qualified\\_Health\\_Plans\\_in\\_the\\_Health\\_Insurance\\_Marketplaces.aspx](http://www.qualityforum.org/Publications/2014/01/Input_on_the_Quality_Rating_System_for_Qualified_Health_Plans_in_the_Health_Insurance_Marketplaces.aspx)

the number of child-only QHPs in the Marketplaces. The limited number of child-only QHPs and enrollees may prohibit reliable child-only QRS rating calculations. CMS combined the proposed QRS measure sets into one measure set for the 2015 beta test of the QRS measure set and the intended measure set for the 2016 public reporting year.

Measures that were recommended through public comment and the Task Force were added to the 2015 QRS measure set after considering their relevance, appropriateness, and alignment to the QRS measure selection and measure set evaluation criteria as outlined in the FRN released November 19, 2013.

Measures were removed from the proposed set if they were not NQF-endorsed, unless they fulfill a specific gap in the measure set, were recently submitted for endorsement, or were not applicable for NQF-endorsement. Some measures were also removed if they were not supported by Task Force recommendations or public comment, no longer reflect current clinical best practice, or are being proposed for retirement by the measure steward.

## The QRS Measure Set

The current QRS measure set consists of 43 measures, 12 of which are survey measures that will be collected as part of the QHP Enrollee Survey. The majority of QRS measures are endorsed by NQF and align with reporting requirements for other CMS programs that measure health plan performance, specifically Medicaid Adult and Child Core sets and Medicare Stars. All of the measures in the QRS measure set are required as part of at least one Federal, State or private health plan performance reporting program such as the Office of Personnel Management Federal Employees Health Benefits program, accreditation programs, or *Consumer Reports*.

As noted in Table 1, 29 of the 43 measures are required for reporting during the 2015 beta test. The remaining 15 measures require at least two years of coverage data in order to report, and CMS intends to require these measures as part of the 2016 QRS measure set (see Table 2).<sup>4</sup> CMS will publish a final 2016 QRS measure set after the 2015 beta test. QHP issuers are required to report all associated measure indicators unless specified in parentheses next to the measure in the tables below.

The survey measures (\*) will be collected as part of the QHP Enrollee Survey, which is largely based on items from the Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS®) surveys. All QHP issuers who offered coverage and enrolled more than 500 enrollees during the 2014 coverage year are required to participate in the 2015 QHP Enrollee Survey beta test.

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<sup>4</sup> As currently specified, the Breast Cancer Screening measure requires three years of coverage data to report and is therefore not reportable until 2017.

Table 1. Final 2015 QRS Beta Test Measure Set

Measure Title	NQF ID <sup>5</sup>
Access to Care *	0006 <sup>6</sup>
Access to Information *	0006
Annual Dental Visit	1388
Annual Monitoring for Patients on Persistent Medications	Not Endorsed <sup>7</sup>
Appropriate Testing for Children With Pharyngitis	0002
Appropriate Treatment for Children With Upper Respiratory Infection	0069
Care Coordination *	Not Endorsed
Cervical Cancer Screening	0032
Chlamydia Screening in Women	0033
Comprehensive Diabetes Care: Eye Exam (Retinal) Performed	0055
Comprehensive Diabetes Care: Hemoglobin A1c (HbA1c) Control (<8.0%)	0575
Comprehensive Diabetes Care: Hemoglobin A1c (HbA1c) Testing	0057
Comprehensive Diabetes Care: Medical Attention for Nephropathy	0062
Controlling High Blood Pressure	0018
Cultural Competence *	Not Endorsed
Flu Shots for Adults *	0039
Follow-Up After Hospitalization for Mental Illness (7-Day Follow-Up)	0576
Initiation and Engagement of Alcohol and Other Drug Dependence Treatment	0004
Plan Administration *	0006
Prenatal and Postpartum Care	1517
Proportion of Days Covered	0541
Rating of All Health Care *	0006
Rating of Health Plan *	0006
Rating of Personal Doctor *	0006
Rating of Specialist *	0006
Relative Resource Use for People with Diabetes (Inpatient Facility)	1557
Use of Imaging Studies for Low Back Pain	0052
Weight Assessment and Counseling for Nutrition and Physical Activity for Children and Adolescents	0024
Well-Child Visits in the Third, Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Years of Life	1516

<sup>5</sup> Definitions of NQF-endorsed measures can be found here: <http://www.qualityforum.org/Home.aspx>

<sup>6</sup> NQF ID #0006 reflects NQF endorsement for the CAHPS Health Plan 4.0 survey. The QHP Enrollee Survey and associated QRS survey measures align with items from the CAHPS Health Plan 5.0 surveys, which have not yet been submitted for endorsement.

<sup>7</sup> Measure is not currently NQF-endorsed, but it was submitted for endorsement in early 2014.

Table 2. Additional Measures for the 2016 and 2017 QRS Measure Sets

Measure Title	NQF ID#
Adult BMI Assessment	Not Endorsed
Antidepressant Medication Management	0105
Aspirin Use and Discussion *	Not Endorsed
Avoidance of Antibiotic Treatment in Adults with Acute Bronchitis	0058
Breast Cancer Screening	Not Endorsed <sup>8</sup>
Childhood Immunization Status (Combination 3)	0038
Colorectal Cancer Screening	0034
Follow-Up Care for Children Prescribed ADHD Medication	0108
HPV Vaccination for Female Adolescents	1959
Immunizations for Adolescents (Combination 1)	1407
Medical Assistance With Smoking and Tobacco Use Cessation *	0027
Medication Management for People With Asthma (75% of Treatment Period)	1799
Plan All-Cause Readmissions	1768
Well-Child Visits in the First 15 Months of Life (6 or More Visits)	1392

<sup>8</sup> Measure is not currently NQF-endorsed, but it was submitted for endorsement in early 2014. The Breast Cancer Screening measure requires a three year look back period and will therefore not be required until the 2017 QRS reporting year.