Pre-Rulemaking 2017
Frequently Asked Questions

**Purpose:**
The purpose of this document is to provide stakeholder guidance related to the pre-rulemaking processes. These processes are a result of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) of 2010. CMS’ goal is to be transparent providing interested audiences and stakeholders with information which enhances CMS’ ability to meet its quality and efficiency measurement goals. As a result of the legislation in 2011, CMS published the first Measures under Consideration (MUC) List for the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) by December 1st. Each year no later than December 1st, CMS is statutorily required to publish this List.

The National Quality Forum’s (NQF) Measure Applications Partnership (MAP), DHHS’ consensus-based entity, convenes each winter to fulfill its statutory requirement of providing input to HHS on measures under consideration for use in CMS’ federal programs. These federal programs are named explicitly in the Act. The MAP consists of several workgroups including: Clinicians, PAC/LTC, Hospitals, Dual Eligible Beneficiaries, and the Coordinating Committee. Annually, each December and January, the MAP workgroups and the Coordinating Committee meet to provide program-specific recommendations to DHHS by February 1st with the first report published and submitted to DHHS on February 1, 2012, and then each year thereafter.

CMS considers this document to be a “living” source of pre-rulemaking information. Since the first MUC/MAP cycle in 2011, CMS has learned through experience the nuances of pre-rulemaking, the condensed time-line, overlapping rule-making program calendars, and overcoming the challenges of the federal clearance process to ensure that pre-rulemaking statutory requirements are met. CMS’ quality and efficiency measurement goals align with the National Quality Strategy (NQS). Pre-rulemaking is designed to improve health outcomes and healthcare quality by assisting with the selection of measures that produce publicly reported performance results for transparency and healthcare decision-making, aligning payment with value, and rewarding providers and professionals for using health information technology (health IT) to improve patient care.

The following are a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) with regard to pre-rulemaking and have been broken up into four common themes including CMS’ 2017 Pre-Rulemaking Milestones, Measures under Consideration Events, Measure Applications Partnership Events, and JIRA: CMS’ Measures under Consideration Tracking System. The document’s intended audience is federal DHHS agencies, organizations contracted with these federal agencies, and healthcare advocacy groups. For additional information and resources go to the CMS website at the following link:
**CMS’ 2017 Pre-Rulemaking Milestones:**

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| Why are the following dates important and who are they important to?     | **Tuesday, January 31**  
  - JIRA opens for 2017 new measure submissions and comments  
  - Important To: All Federal, non-Federal stakeholders  

  **Tuesday, January 31 through Monday, May 1**  
  - JIRA users may edit their own measure submissions and as soon as the measure is final initiate CMS review and workflow by clicking the “finished editing” yes button  
  - Important To: All Federal, non-Federal stakeholders  

  **Tuesday, April 4**  
  - Measures under Consideration Annual Kick-Off Webinar  
  - Important To: All Federal, non-Federal stakeholders  

  **Thursday, April 6 and 13**  
  - JIRA Open Forum Discussion Webinars  
  - Important To: All Federal, non-Federal stakeholders  

  **Tuesday, April 11**  
  - CMS’ Program Measurement Needs and Priorities Session Webinar  
  - Important To: All Federal, non-Federal stakeholders  

  **Tuesday, May 2 through Friday, June 30**  
  - CMS’ 2017 official MUC cycle: requests to modify or remove measures from JIRA will be reviewed by CMS only through the use of the “modify candidate measure” issue type in JIRA  
  - Important To: All Federal, non-Federal stakeholders  |
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| Important dates, continued                                              | **Thursday, August 3**  
  • In-Person Federal Only Stakeholder Meeting to preview the MUC list  
  • Important To: All Federal stakeholders  

**Tuesday, December 1**  
  • By this date, the Measures under Consideration list is published  
  • Important To: All Federal, non-Federal stakeholders                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| In 2016, CMS added an additional 3 months to submit candidate measures in JIRA. Why are these added 3 months important to you? | Since 2011, CMS has complied with the pre-rulemaking statute. Through lessons learned CMS has gleaned that the Measures under Consideration clearance process must begin in August in order to meet the statutory deadline of publishing the Measures under Consideration List no later than December 1st annually. CMS is encouraging stakeholders to enter measures early to improve reviews and to accommodate program needs. The clearance process involves collaboration, cooperation, and communication across multiple CMS, DHHS, and OMB components and agencies, which involves federal staff reviews and approvals at many levels within and across each agency’s components. If the clearance process commences any later than August annually, CMS is at risk of missing the statutory mandate. |
| When does clearance begin?                                              | CMS will begin clearance for the 2017 Measures under Consideration list on Monday, August 21. Reminder: as noted above, JIRA closes for new measures on June 30.                                                                                                                                                              |
Measures under Consideration Events:

Annually, CMS hosts a series of meetings to kick off the annual Measures under Consideration cycle and refresh pre-rulemaking stakeholders regarding the following topics: the statute, CMS’ quality strategy, highlights of the prior year’s lessons learned, JIRA system enhancements, pre-rulemaking federal program specific needs and priorities, as well as an introduction of the current cycle’s milestone and future meeting dates.

For each session when the presentation portions are completed, audience participants will be invited to submit questions via the webinar application. For training purposes, the meetings will be recorded. The meetings intended audiences are Federal DHHS agencies, organizations contracted with these Federal agencies, and healthcare advocacy groups are welcome.

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<tr>
<td>What is the purpose of the April 4, 2017 meeting?</td>
<td>The April 4 meeting will include a review of the Measures under Consideration and Measure Applications Partnership processes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting Series #1: 2017 Measures Under Consideration Annual Kick Off</td>
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<tr>
<td>What is the purpose of the April 6 &amp; 13, 2017 meeting?</td>
<td>The April 6 &amp; 13 meetings will introduce new JIRA information and review features and functionality. After the JIRA live demonstrations, the meeting format will be open-forum for questions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meeting Series #2 &amp; 4: 2017 Measures Under Consideration JIRA Open Forum Discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>What is the purpose of the April 11, 2017 meeting?</td>
<td>The topic focal point of the April 11 meeting is CMS’ program-specific measure needs and priorities for the 2017 pre-rulemaking cycle’s Measures under Consideration List. The goal is to align these needs and priorities with candidate measure submissions in JIRA.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meeting Series #3: 2017 CMS’ Program Measurement Needs and Priorities Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>What is the purpose of the August 3, 2017 meeting?</td>
<td>The August 3 <strong>Federal-only</strong> stakeholder meeting is to conclude CMS’ Measures under Consideration List review process, which officially kicks-off the Federal DHHS agencies’ clearance review and approval process for the Measures under Consideration List.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meeting Series #5: 2017 In-Person Federal Stakeholder Meeting</td>
<td>During the August Federal-only meeting, agency representatives from across DHHS will be briefed by each CMS program and measure leads regarding the submitted measures under consideration for the 2017 cycle. CMS measure and program leads will convey how the candidate measures meet CMS’ program needs and priorities. In preparation for the meeting, the specifications of candidate measures will be provided to the DHHS Federal agencies. To effectuate a seamless, smooth clearance process, CMS requests that Federal DHHS agency representatives responsible for clearance review and approval be present and be prepared with concurrence or objections for each of the candidate measures. The meeting objective is for CMS staff to address all questions and concerns related to the Measures under Consideration List with the ultimate goal of avoiding any objections and concerns to proposed measures after this August meeting, and to prevent changes to the Measures under Consideration List once in clearance. Clearance is scheduled to begin on Monday, August 21.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What should I do, if I need to be invited to a meeting in the series or know someone that does?</td>
<td>Contact CMS Measures under Consideration Coordinator: Michelle Geppi <a href="mailto:Michelle.Geppi@cms.hhs.gov">Michelle.Geppi@cms.hhs.gov</a> 410.786.4844</td>
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Measures Application Partnership (MAP) Events:

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<tr>
<td>When will the MAP workgroup meetings be scheduled?</td>
<td>In general, the Measures under Consideration List is published annually no later than December 1st. The MAP workgroup meetings occur in December with the Coordinating Committee meeting in January. For more information visit the National Quality Forum’s website below: <a href="http://www.qualityforum.org/map/">http://www.qualityforum.org/map/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who can attend the MAP workgroup meetings or the Coordinating Committee meetings?</td>
<td>All MAP meetings are open to the public. For more information visit the National Quality Forum’s website below: <a href="http://www.qualityforum.org/map/">http://www.qualityforum.org/map/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Why should a measure owner, submitter, or steward attend the MAP workgroup meeting?</td>
<td>Your attendance coupled with your ability to respond to workgroup members’ inquiries enable the workgroup members to make an informed decision relative to their vote on each respective candidate measure. CMS recognizes the importance of your attendance to address MAP workgroup inquiries that cannot be addressed by information gleaned from the JIRA database.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can I attend the MAP workgroup meetings remotely by teleconference or webinar?</td>
<td>You have the option of attending these public meetings either in-person or via webinar/teleconference.</td>
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### JIRA CMS' Measures under Consideration Tracking System:


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| In JIRA, what should I do if I need to modify or remove a candidate measure after the original submission has already been made? | **Response #1:**  
From January 31 through May 1, JIRA submitters/reporters may edit their own candidate measure submissions.  
For more information see User Guide Section 2.11, Editing a Submitted Measure:  

**Response #2:**  
From May 2 and June 30, log on to JIRA and submit a “Modify Candidate Measure” issue type. Refer to JIRA User Guide Chapter 3:  

| Who can edit measures in JIRA?                                           | **Response #1:**  
From January 31 through May 1, submitters/reporters may edit their own candidate measure submissions. In the event a candidate measure submission needs to be deleted from the JIRA database, please follow the direction below in response #2.  
For more information see Chapter 3 of the User Guide: Modifying a Current Year Measure:  

**Response #2:**  
From May 2 through June 30, submitters/reporters may submit a "Modify Candidate Measure" issue type in JIRA. During these dates, measure submitters/reporters do not have the ability to edit their own measure submissions in JIRA.  
For more information see Chapter 3 of the User Guide: Modifying a Current Year Measure:  

**NOTE:** Two responses based on calendar dates.
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<tr>
<td>Who approves changes made to a measure?</td>
<td><strong>Response #1:</strong> From January 31 to May 1, submitters/reporters make the modification themselves. <strong>Response #2:</strong> From May 2 through June 30, CMS reviews and decides on all candidate measure modification requests. For more information see Chapter 3 of the User Guide: Modifying a Current Year Measure <a href="http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/QualityMeasures/Pre-Rule-Making.html">http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/QualityMeasures/Pre-Rule-Making.html</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NOTE: Two responses based on calendar dates.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>How do I obtain user credentials for JIRA?</td>
<td>In order to gain first-time access to JIRA, visit the ONC web site <a href="http://jira.oncprojecttracking.org">http://jira.oncprojecttracking.org</a> and click the link “Sign up for an account.” If you already have a JIRA account, then to apply for, reactivate, change, or delete user credentials for the current year’s JIRA MUC Project, email the CMS Measures Management System support service, <a href="mailto:MMSSupport@battelle.org">MMSSupport@battelle.org</a>. User credentials are granted to individuals and should not be shared. When requesting access or reactivation, complete the Accessing JIRA form, located in the User Guide. For more information see the User Guide Section 1.1, Accessing JIRA: <a href="http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/QualityMeasures/Pre-Rule-Making.html">http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/QualityMeasures/Pre-Rule-Making.html</a>. You may also contact Michelle Geppi at <a href="mailto:Michelle.Geppi@cms.hhs.gov">Michelle.Geppi@cms.hhs.gov</a>.</td>
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<td>What if I forgot my username and password?</td>
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<td>Does each person have their own JIRA log-in?</td>
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<td>Is my JIRA username and password the same as last year?</td>
<td>Usernames and passwords should not change, but access may be suspended due to inactivity. If you are unable to access your JIRA account, email the CMS Measures Management System support service, <a href="mailto:MMSSupport@battelle.org">MMSSupport@battelle.org</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If I have access to JIRA, but don’t see the 2017 project yet, what should I do?</td>
<td>The Measures under Consideration 2017 project is available to all authorized users in JIRA as of January 31. If users do not see the 2017 project after this date, they should email the CMS Measures Management System support service, <a href="mailto:MMSSupport@battelle.org">MMSSupport@battelle.org</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In JIRA, if I cannot complete all the fields at once, can I save and come back at a later time to finish?</td>
<td>JIRA is not designed to permit users to save work and return later to finish. CMS suggests submitters complete the submission template prior to entering data into JIRA. To download the Measures under Consideration Template, see: <a href="http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/QualityMeasures/Pre-Rule-Making.html">http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/QualityMeasures/Pre-Rule-Making.html</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>What is the measure template and why should we use it?</td>
<td>The measure submission template is a Word document that mirrors the data fields in JIRA. CMS recommends issue submitters complete the template before logging into JIRA to submit their measure. JIRA will not allow you to save your work and come back later. Data in the template may be cut and pasted into JIRA. For more information see Chapter 2 of the User Guide: Creating a New Measure: <a href="http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/QualityMeasures/Pre-Rule-Making.html">http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Q...</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>If my measure was submitted to JIRA, but not published in the Measures under Consideration list during any prior measures under consider season, can I resubmit?</td>
<td>If the measure was not accepted by the program(s) and was not published on any of the official Measures under Consideration Lists, it can be resubmitted. For more information see section 2.7 of the User Guide: Measures under Consideration and Measure Applications Partnership (MAP) History: <a href="http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/QualityMeasures/Pre-Rule-Making.html">http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/QualityMeasures/Pre-Rule-Making.html</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Can I submit the same measure for more than one CMS program?</td>
<td>Yes, candidate measures can be resubmitted to more than one program. For more information see Chapter 2 of the User Guide: Creating a New Measure: <a href="http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/QualityMeasures/Pre-Rule-Making.html">http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/QualityMeasures/Pre-Rule-Making.html</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If my measure is not ready for submission by June 30, 2017 when is the next opportunity to submit a measure to CMS?</td>
<td>The pre-rulemaking process is annual, and candidate measures will next be accepted starting in late January 2018. For more information see Introduction of the User Guide: <a href="http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/QualityMeasures/Pre-Rule-Making.html">http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/QualityMeasures/Pre-Rule-Making.html</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Would measures without complete MAT/HQMF specification, but in development, be worth submitting?</td>
<td>Yes, please submit measures and follow the JIRA data field guidance. For more information see Section 2.5 of the User Guide: Electronic Clinical Quality Measures (eCQMs) <a href="http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/QualityMeasures/Pre-Rule-Making.html">http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/QualityMeasures/Pre-Rule-Making.html</a></td>
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| **What are the steps to create a filter in JIRA?** | **Building and Saving a Filter for Reuse**  
Before doing any of this, make sure that you are in the current year MUC Project in Jira.  
1. Click “Issues” button at top menu from within the current year MUC Project. The other “Issues” button at the left of the screen does not work for this filter process.  
2. Click “Search for Issues” in the drop-down.  
3. Under the headline “Search,” you should see a row of drop-down parameters: Project, Type, Status, Assignee, etc. If you see instead an empty text box with a green check mark, then somehow you are in the “Advanced” search/filter mode. Go to the right of this box and click the “Basic” link. Then follow the steps below.  
4. Using the drop-down lists, select the criteria of interest:  
   - Project = 2017 Measures under Consideration (Select this one for sure, or else you will have all Jira project issues.)  
   - Filter on other fields as needed, using drop-down + check-boxes  
5. Once the filter is set up as wanted, then click the “Save” button to the right of the “Search” headline.  
6. Type in the filter name, something that you will recognize.  
7. Click “Submit” button.  
8. This filter will then appear in your list of “Favorite Filters” at the left.  
9. You can go back and edit a filter and then save it with the new parameters. |
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| What are the steps to create a dashboard in JIRA? | **Creating and Populating a Dashboard**  
Before doing any of this, make sure that you are in the current year MUC Project in Jira.  

1. Click “Dashboards” button at top menu from within the current year MUC Project.  
2. Click “Manage Dashboards.”  
3. Click “Create New Dashboard” button at top right of screen.  
4. Enter a name for this dashboard, and other attributes. You can leave these other fields as defaults, or you can set it up as you want. For example, you can share your dashboard with others.  
5. Click “Add” when finished.  
6. The new one will now appear on your list of Favorite Dashboards.  
7. Click on the dashboard to populate or modify it.  
8. Click the hyperlink “Add a new gadget.”  
9. In the box “Gadget Directory,” scroll down the alphabetical list to “Filter Results.”  
10. Click the button “Add it Now.”  
11. Click “Close” button on the “Gadget Directory” box.  
12. Your favorite filters (those that you have saved) should appear in a list at top left. Select the one that you want to put on this dashboard.  
13. You can modify the filter from within the Dashboard. For example, you may want to add “Assignee” to the set of fields to display.  
14. You can add two or more filters to the same dashboard, then use scroll or the “Edit Layout” button at upper right to modify the display.  
15. Once you have a filter on your dashboard, you can modify or remove it by using the buttons at the top right corner or each “gadget” or filter box/window on your dashboard. The “four arrows” icon lets you change the gadget location on your dashboard. The “window” icon lets you maximize the filter display, and the “drop-down” icon lets you edit or delete the filter or gadget from this dashboard.  

Refer to the previous May 12, 2015, JIRA Open Forum session, which was recorded and is available for viewing via a YouTube video located at the following website:  
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<tr>
<td>Regarding the MIPS program requirement for additional information on Peer Reviewed Journal Article publication, what is the deadline for providing this attachment with the candidate measure?</td>
<td>Section 101(c)(1) of the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA) requires submission of new measures for publication in an applicable, specialty-appropriate, peer-reviewed journal. June 30, 2017, is the deadline for submitting new measures for the 2017 Measures under Consideration List. CMS and the MIPS program have developed a blank template for measure owners/submitters to document information related to the peer reviewed journal article requirement. The candidate measure submission will not be reviewed until the supplemental document is provided via JIRA to CMS. To obtain the MIPS Peer Review Template and a Completed Sample refer to the following website: <a href="https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/QualityMeasures/Downloads/MIPS-Peer-Review-Template-and-a-Completed-Sample.zip">https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/QualityMeasures/Downloads/MIPS-Peer-Review-Template-and-a-Completed-Sample.zip</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What MIPS candidate measure submissions require the Peer Review Template to be completed?</td>
<td>For the 2016 and future MUC cycles, all MIPS candidate measure submissions require the completion and submission of a Peer Review Template.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How should I complete the Peer Review Template?</td>
<td>The blank template is in Word format, which you can open, edit, save, and post as an attachment to your candidate measure record using JIRA. Note that some of the items on the Peer Review Template are closed-ended questions. It will help the evaluation of your candidate measure if you provide supporting details to document your responses. For example, the form asks “Has [the measure] been tested?” “Is it risk adjusted?” and “Are there benchmarks?” Rather than responding simply Yes/No, please provide brief descriptions of the testing, the forms of risk adjustment, and any applicable benchmarks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are any MIPS candidate measures excluded from having the Peer Reviewed Journal Article attachment?</td>
<td>All measures submitted through the Measures Under Consideration pre-rulemaking process for implementation in MIPS from 2016 forward are required to have the Peer Reviewed Journal Article Template completed. MIPS measures that are submitted through QCDR self-nomination, to be used only by a select QCDR, are excluded from this requirement. However, if a QCDR would like to have their QCDR measure implemented as a MIPS measure and reported by any Eligible Clinician, the measure must be submitted through the MUC process and consequently be accompanied by a Peer Reviewed Journal Article Template.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For the 2017 MUC season, what reporting year at the earliest could a MIPS candidate measure be established as a rule?</td>
<td>When a MIPS candidate measure is published on the 2017 MUC List, the earliest it can be implemented is for the 2019 MIPS performance period.</td>
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**April 2017 Pre-rulemaking Webinar Series Questions**

**April 4 Kickoff Webinar**

**Question 1.** Does CMS generally provide more feedback for "refine and resubmit"? From a development perspective, how should it be interpreted?

**Answer 1.** The MAP provides more guidance on the refine and resubmit. For example, the MAP will provide a statement of rationale explaining what refinements are suggested or what they’d like to see completed in measure development before the measure could be fully supported by MAP. For the 2016/2017 pre-rulemaking season for measures categorized as refine and resubmit, the main refinement MAP suggested was the completion of measure testing.

**Question 2.** For candidate measures appearing on a published Measures under Consideration List and receiving a MAP decision category of revise and resubmit classification, are these revised measures required to be added to a subsequent Measures under Consideration List using the JIRA submission process? The caveat is a substantive change to the originally submitted measure.

**Answer 2.** Measures receiving a MAP decision category of refine and submit would not need to be resubmitted to the subsequent year’s Measures under Consideration project in JIRA. A measure only needs to go on the list once from the CMS perspective. During the 2016/2017 pre-rulemaking season, CMS and NQF piloted a process for the Post-Acute Care or Long-Term Care MAP workgroup to implement a feedback loop between CMS, developers, and the MAP, which was very well received. Collaboratively, CMS and NQF are investigating ideas to implement the feedback loop more broadly. The refine and resubmit category was new for the 2016/2017 pre-rulemaking season, so collectively CMS and NQF will continue to proactively seek ways to implement lean practices and continuous improvements for our stakeholders.
**Question 3.** Does CMS or the National Quality Forum (NQF) have any plans to create a resource for organizations to register measure topics, so organizations can ensure they are not duplicating efforts? This might bear with relation to the measure inventory that CMS publishes.

**Answer 3.** CMS and NQF have the following resources for developers to register measure topics or to inquire using the CMS measures inventory. Developers may submit inquiries regarding the measure pipeline to measuremaintenance@qualityforum.org. CMS’ measures inventory has been enhanced over time to include a list of Measures under Development to provide concept ideas that may be in progress. Here is the link to the CMS Measures Inventory: [https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/QualityMeasures/CMS-Measures-Inventory.html](https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/QualityMeasures/CMS-Measures-Inventory.html)

**Question 4.** How frequently is CMS’ Measures Inventory updated? What is the website to learn more about the inventory as well as access to the most recent measure inventory file?

**Answer 4.** CMS publishes an updated Measures Inventory biannually- every February and July. It is important to note that any changes to measures (data, use, status, etc.), are validated through Federal Rules and/or CMS Program/Measure Leads. Any updates that occur after the CMS Quality Measures Inventory has been publicly posted will not be captured until the next posting. CMS Measures Inventory Website: [https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/QualityMeasures/CMS-Measures-Inventory.html](https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/QualityMeasures/CMS-Measures-Inventory.html)

**Question 5.** To assist CMS with the assessment of candidate measure review, acceptance and/or rejection of measures for inclusion on the annual Measure under Consideration List, for the 2017/2018 pre-rulemaking season, JIRA’s data collection includes the questions “state of development and state of development details.” How should a submitter categorize a measure that is fully specified, but still being tested?

**Answer 5.** For the first data field, this is a multi-select data field that includes early development, field testing, and fully developed as possible selections. Using the control button in JIRA, the submitter should multi-select both fully developed and field testing to demonstrate to CMS that the fully specified measure is still undergoing field testing. The state of development details is a free form text data field designed to capture more depth. For candidate measure submissions in the field testing phase, details are helpful to CMS in understanding where the measure is in the developmental cycle and will weigh heavily in determining whether or not the measure will be published on the MUC List. For data field selection definitions visit the glossary in the 2017 CMS Measures under Consideration User Guide for JIRA.

**Question 6.** If a candidate measure completes testing after the timeframe for submission of candidate measures closes and before the December MAP workgroup meetings occur, how does a measure submitter/steward/developer notify CMS and NQF of the revised testing status or provide the MAP committee members with current findings from the additional testing? Who is responsible for providing state of development updates? And why is timing important?

**Answer 6.** JIRA closes June 30, 2017. CMS and NQF recognize measure testing may be updated between the close of JIRA and when measures under consideration are reviewed by the Measure Applications Partnership (MAP). To ensure MAP reviews the most up to date information measure developers are asked to email any testing updates that occur between July 1 and December 1 to MAPupdates@qualityforum.org.
Please note this process is only for submitting testing updates. The published Measures under Consideration list will not be revised; updated information will be provided to the MAP in their meeting materials. Submissions for the Measures under Consideration list or substantive changes to submitted specifications will not be accepted. Additionally, submitting updated testing information does not guarantee a measure will be on the final MUC list.

**Question 7.** For all MIPS program candidate measure submissions, a completed Peer Reviewed Journal Article Requirement supplemental document is required with the submission in JIRA. Section V of this document entitled summary includes a question on alignment with CMS’ Quality Strategy and the measure’s importance to MIPS. How should a submitter/steward respond to Section V?

**Answer 7.** The blank peer review template and a completed example can be found on the Pre-Rule Making website below. The template does not contain drop down boxes or lists. Please attach the completed template to your measure submission in JIRA. Additional information regarding submitting measures for each program can be found in the Measurement Needs & Priorities document below. Additionally, links to the Annual Call for Measures and Activities for the Merit-based Incentive Payment System and the Quality Payment Program Fact Sheet websites are below.

- Pre-rulemaking Website:  

- Link to PDF Document:

- Call more measures Website:  

- Link to PDF Document:  
  [Call for Measures and Activities fact sheet](https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/MMS/CallForMeasures.html)

**Question 8.** Would a building block measure that is necessary to inform the development of an outcome measure count as a "low bar" measure? If so, is there another pathway for these types of temporary or intermediate measures?

**Answer 8.** There is no standard or general response to this question. It depends if it's a high priority area, and on the caliber of the measure itself. For example, if there's a pronounced performance gap, then it would not be low bar at all.
April 6 Open Forum #1

**Question 9.** Is the requirement for peer review for all new measures under development?

**Answer 9.** The peer review journal article requirement applies only to candidate MIPS (Merit-Based Incentive Payment System) measures.

**Question 10.** Just to confirm, we do not need to start a submission for new measures before May 1. That editing deadline is just for measure submissions that were started prior to May 1, correct?

**Answer 10.** Authorized users for the Measures under Consideration 2017 Project in JIRA can enter new candidate measures at any time from January 2017 until June 30, 2017. The reference to May 1 is the cutoff after which users can no longer edit their own measures that they previously submitted in 2017. Users can still submit new measures until June 30, 2017. If after May 1 you need to change a measure that has already been submitted, then you should use the JIRA “Modify Candidate Measure” issue type in JIRA to document this request.

April 11 Measure Needs and Priorities Webinar

**Question 11.** Regarding the MIPS journal article requirement, have any measures been published yet and if so, in what journal?

**Answer 11.** The statutory requirement specifies journal article submission. Actual publication is not included in the legislation.

**Question 12.** Can MAT be used to author MIPS measures or only the eCQMS can be authored via MAT?

**Answer 12.** In JIRA, submitters should include MAT numbers for eCQMs submissions only. Without a MAT number, the measure submission will not be accepted.

**Question 13.** For all the programs, are only Medicare FFS patients required in the measure calculation and reporting to CMS? Or all other types of payer’s patients can be included to increase sample size?

**Answer 13.** By program it will depend on the legislative guidance that is governing the program. For more information regarding the calculations and reporting, please refer to the appropriate program and measure leads.

April 13 Open Forum #2

**Question 14.** For the state of development data field, what do the options, alpha and beta, mean? What information is CMS looking for in this section?
**Answer 14.** The point of the question is to ascertain the level of readiness of the measure for primetime.

**Question 15.** If a measure is adopted will the developer be notified personally or does the developer need to go to CMS website? When will this announcement occur for approved measures?

**Answer 15.** The finalized measures for each program are identified in the rule associated with that program. To note, just because a measure went through the pre-rulemaking process does not mean that it will be adopted as a rule in that particular program.

**Question 16.** Will the 2017 JIRA candidate measure submissions be used for 2018?

**Answer 16.** CMS is collecting measures now that will be reviewed by the Measures Application Partnership in the December 2017/January 2018 timeframe. The reports will come out early 2018. In terms of whether or not a measure will be included in a rule, that would be specific upon the particular program and whether or not they decide to adopt a measure for rulemaking, which is a completely separate process, and those calendars vary by program.