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## Pre-Rulemaking 2018 Frequently Asked Questions

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### 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’s goal is to be transparent providing interested audiences and stakeholders with information which enhances CMS’s 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 (HHS) by December 1. Each year no later than December 1, CMS is statutorily required to publish this List.

The National Quality Forum’s (NQF) Measure Applications Partnership (MAP), the current HHS contracted consensus-based entity, convenes each winter to fulfill its statutory requirement of providing input to HHS on measures under consideration for use in CMS’s federal programs. These federal programs are named explicitly in the Act. The MAP consists of several workgroups including: Clinicians, PAC/LTC (Post-Acute Care/Long-Term Care), Hospitals, and the Coordinating Committee.

Annually, each December and January, the MAP workgroups and the Coordinating Committee meet to provide program-specific recommendations to HHS by February 1 with the first report published and submitted to HHS 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 rulemaking program calendars, and overcoming the challenges of the federal clearance process to ensure that pre-rulemaking statutory requirements are met. Pre-rulemaking is designed to improve health outcomes and

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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 frequently asked questions (FAQs) relate to pre-rulemaking and have been sorted into the following categories: Measures under Consideration Events, Types of Measures to Submit, JIRA System Overall Features, Data Fields in JIRA, and Measure Applications Partnership (MAP). The document's intended audience is federal HHS 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: <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/QualityMeasures/Pre-Rule-Making.html>

## 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’s 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 HHS agencies, organizations contracted with these Federal agencies, and healthcare advocacy groups.

Question	CMS Response
When can I start submitting candidate measures to CMS?	On Thursday, March 1, JIRA opened for 2018 new candidate measure submissions and comments.
What is the deadline to submit candidate measures into JIRA?	All measures submitted to JIRA for <i>MIPS-Quality</i> must be completed by <b>Friday, June 1, 2018</b> . Measures for <i>all other programs</i> must be submitted by <b>Friday, June 15, 2018</b> . If your measure is being submitted for both MIPS-Quality and one or more other programs, it must be completed in JIRA by June 1.
What is the purpose of the April 3, 2018 meeting?	The April 3, 2018, Measures under Consideration Annual Kickoff meeting will include a review of the Measures under Consideration and Measure Applications Partnership processes.
What is the purpose of the April 5 & 12, 2018 meetings?	The April 5 & 12 meetings, 2018 Measures under Consideration JIRA Open Forum Discussions, will introduce new JIRA information and review features and functionality. After the JIRA live demonstrations, the meeting format will allow time for questions.
What is the purpose of the April 10, 2018 meeting?	The topic of the April 10 meeting, the 2018 CMS Program Measure Needs and Priorities Session, is when CMS program officials describe their measure needs with the goal being to align these needs and priorities with candidate measure submissions in JIRA.
What is the purpose of the early August 2018 meeting?	<p>The early August <b>Federal-only</b> stakeholder meeting is to conclude CMS’s Measures under Consideration List review process, which officially kicks-off the Federal HHS agencies’ clearance review and approval process for the Measures under Consideration List.</p> <p>During the August Federal-only meeting, agency representatives from across HHS will be briefed by each CMS program and measure leads regarding the submitted measures under consideration for the 2018 cycle. CMS</p>

Question	CMS Response
	<p>measure and program leads will convey how the candidate measures meet CMS’s program needs and priorities. In preparation for the meeting, the specifications of candidate measures will be provided to the HHS Federal agencies. To effectuate a seamless, smooth clearance process, CMS requests that Federal HHS 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 in early August.</p>
<p>What should I do if I need to be invited to a meeting in the series or know someone that does?</p>	<p>Contact <a href="mailto:MMSsupport@battelle.org">MMSsupport@battelle.org</a> to be added to the CMS Pre-Rulemaking mailing list for e-mail announcements and invitations.</p>
<p>Why should candidate measures be added to JIRA early in the MUC cycle?</p>	<p>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 1 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, HHS, 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.</p>
<p>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?</p>	<p>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 1, 2018, is the deadline for submitting new MIPS-Quality measures for the 2018 Measures under Consideration List. June 15, 2018, is the deadline for MIPS-Cost measures. 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.</p> <p>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></p>

## JIRA: CMS’s Measures under Consideration Tracking System

CMS’s Measures under Consideration User Guide, Issue Tracking System Guidance, may be downloaded from the CMS Pre-Rulemaking website at the following link: <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/QualityMeasures/Pre-Rule-Making.html>

### Types of Measures to Submit

Question	CMS Response
<p>What are some general guidelines for deciding the kinds of measures to submit?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In an effort to provide a more meaningful List, CMS will include only measures that are beyond the concept stage and that have reached a defined level of maturity, allowing for meaningful review.</li> <li>• If CMS chooses not to adopt a measure from the Measures under Consideration List for the current rulemaking cycle, the measure remains under consideration by the Secretary and may be proposed and adopted in subsequent rulemaking cycles.</li> <li>• Existing measures that are eligible for expansion into different CMS programs should be submitted on subsequent Measures under Consideration Lists.</li> <li>• Measures may be mandatory or optional.</li> <li>• Measures appearing on the Measures under Consideration List may or may not be adopted by CMS and implemented in the field. All measures included on the Measures under Consideration List are subject to CMS’s rulemaking process.</li> <li>• A measure can be submitted to JIRA if it was previously submitted to be on a prior year's Measures under Consideration List, but was not accepted by any CMS program(s); it is assumed that the measure will have undergone further developed or modification/refinement since the previous submission.</li> <li>• Measure specifications may change over time; if a measure has significantly changed, it may be submitted for a subsequent Measures under Consideration List.</li> </ul>
<p>If my measure was submitted to JIRA, but not published in the Measures under Consideration list during any prior year, can I resubmit?</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>For more information see section 2.7 of the Measures under Consideration User Guide found on the CMS Pre-Rulemaking site:  <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></p>

Question	CMS Response
Can I submit the same measure for more than one CMS program?	Yes, candidate measures can be submitted to more than one program. For more information see Chapter 2 of the Measure under Consideration 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>
If my measure is not ready for submission by June 15, 2018, when is the next opportunity to submit a measure to CMS?	The pre-rulemaking process is annual, and candidate measures will next be accepted starting in early 2019. For more information see Introduction of the Measure under Consideration 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>
Would measures without complete MAT/HQMF specification, but in development, be worth submitting?	Yes, please submit measures and follow the JIRA data field guidance. For more information see Section 2.5 of the Measure under Consideration 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>
Will the JIRA candidate measure submissions from the current year be used for the following year?	CMS is collecting measures now that will be reviewed by the Measures Application Partnership in the following December/January timeframe. The reports will come out early in the year following release of the Measures under Consideration List in December. 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.
Can the Measure Authoring Tool (MAT) be used to author any measure, or is the MAT only for authoring electronic clinical quality measures (eCQMs)?	In JIRA, submitters should include MAT numbers for eCQMs submissions only. Without a MAT number, the measure submission will not be accepted.
Does CMS 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.	CMS's 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 Tool (CMIT): <a href="https://cmit.cms.gov">https://cmit.cms.gov</a>

## JIRA System Overall Features

Question	CMS Response
How do I obtain user credentials for JIRA?	<p>In order to gain first-time access to JIRA, visit the ONC web site <a href="https://oncprojecttracking.healthit.gov">https://oncprojecttracking.healthit.gov</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>.</p> <p>When requesting access or reactivation, complete the Accessing JIRA Application (Appendix A), located in the Measures under Consideration User Guide.</p> <p>For more information see the Measures under Consideration User Guide Section 1.1, Accessing JIRA, located on the CMS Pre-Rulemaking site: <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></p>
What if I forgot my username and password?	<p>To apply for, reactivate, change, or delete user credentials or passwords 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>.</p>
Does each person have his or her own JIRA log-in?	<p>User credentials are granted to individuals and should not be shared.</p>
If I have access to JIRA, but don’t see the 2018 project yet, what should I do?	<p>The Measures under Consideration 2018 project is available to all authorized users in JIRA as of March 1. If the 2018 project is not visible after this date, email the CMS Measures Management System support service, <a href="mailto:MMSSupport@battelle.org">MMSSupport@battelle.org</a>.</p>
Is my JIRA username and password the same as last year?	<p>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>.</p>
What are the major changes in JIRA data fields from 2017 to 2018?	<p>Most fields remained the same. Here are several major changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you are submitting for MIPS, there are two choices of program. Choose <b>MIPS-Quality</b> for measures that pertain to quality and/or efficiency. Choose the new program <b>MIPS-Cost</b> only for measures that pertain to cost. Do not select both MIPS-Quality and MIPS-Cost for the same measure.</li> <li>• The required field formerly known as NQS Priorities is now labeled “Healthcare Priority.” It had been a multi-select field, but in 2018 it changed to select one. You need to choose the one Healthcare Priority that best fits your measure.</li> <li>• A new required field for Meaningful Measure has been added (see next question below). The</li> </ul>

Question	CMS Response
	<p>choices that you see in JIRA will depend on which Healthcare Priority you select. You need to choose the one Meaningful Measure that best fits your measure. For more information, go to the CMS Meaningful Measures site at: <a href="https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/QualityInitiativesGenInfo/MMF/General-info-Sub-Page.html">https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/QualityInitiativesGenInfo/MMF/General-info-Sub-Page.html</a>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A new required field asking “How is the measure expected to be reported to the program?” has been added. This is separate from the existing required field “What data sources are used for the measure?”</li> </ul> <p>For electronic clinical quality measures (eCQMs), several types of attachments with supporting data are now required. These are outlined in the JIRA screen guidance and in the Measures under Consideration User Guide.</p>
What is a Meaningful Measure Area?	<p>The “Meaningful Measures” framework is CMS’s new initiative identifying the highest priorities for quality measurement and improvement. It assesses core issues that are the most critical to providing high-quality care and improving individual outcomes. The Meaningful Measure Areas serve as the connectors between CMS goals under development and individual measures/initiatives that demonstrate how high-quality outcomes for our beneficiaries are being achieved. They are concrete quality topics that reflect core issues that are most vital to high-quality care and better patient outcomes. For more information, go to: <a href="https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/QualityInitiativesGenInfo/CMS-Quality-Strategy.html">https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/QualityInitiativesGenInfo/CMS-Quality-Strategy.html</a></p>
What is the JIRA MUC template and why should we use it?	<p>The JIRA MUC template is a Word document located on the CMS Pre-Rulemaking site that mirrors the data fields in JIRA. CMS recommends that submitters complete the template before logging into JIRA to submit their measure. JIRA will <u>not</u> allow you to save your work and come back later. Data in the template may be cut and pasted into JIRA.</p> <p>For more information see Chapter 2 of the Measures under Consideration User Guide: Creating a New Measure, found on the CMS Pre-Rulemaking site: <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></p>
In JIRA, if I cannot complete all the fields at once, can I save and come back at a later time to finish?	<p>JIRA is not designed to permit users to save work and return later to finish. CMS suggests that submitters draft their submission using the JIRA MUC Template Blank 2018 prior to entering data into JIRA. The template is located on the CMS Pre-Rulemaking site: <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></p>
In JIRA, what should I do if I need to modify or remove a candidate measure after the	<p>Submitters/reporters may submit a “Modify Candidate Measure” issue type in JIRA. Measure submitters/reporters do not have the ability to edit their own measure submissions in JIRA.</p> <p>For more information see Chapter 3 of the Measures under Consideration User Guide: Modifying a Current Year</p>

Question	CMS Response
original submission has already been made?	Measure located on the CMS Pre-Rulemaking site: <a href="https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/QualityMeasures/Pre-Rule-Making.html">https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/QualityMeasures/Pre- Rule-Making.html</a>
Who approves changes made to a measure?	CMS reviews and decides on all candidate measure modification requests. For more information see Chapter 3 of the Measures under Consideration User Guide: Modifying a Current Year Measure located on the CMS Pre-Rulemaking site: <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>
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?	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.
What are the steps to create a filter in JIRA?	<p>Building and Saving a Filter for Reuse</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Before doing any of this, make sure that you are in the current year MUC Project in JIRA.</li> <li>2. 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.</li> <li>3. Click “Search for Issues” in the drop-down.</li> <li>4. 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.</li> <li>5. Using the drop-down lists, select the criteria of interest: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Project = 2018 Measures under Consideration (Select this one for sure, or else you will have all JIRA project issues.)</li> <li>ii. Filter on other fields as needed, using drop-down + check-boxes</li> </ol> </li> <li>6. Once the filter is set up as wanted, then click the “Save” button to the right of the “Search” headline.</li> <li>7. Type in the filter name, something that you will recognize.</li> <li>8. Click “Submit” button.</li> <li>9. This filter will then appear in your list of “Favorite Filters” at the left.</li> </ol> <p>You can go back and edit a filter and then save it with the new parameters.</p>

Question	CMS Response
<p>What are the steps to create a dashboard in JIRA?</p>	<p>Creating and Populating a Dashboard  Before doing any of this, make sure that you are in the current year MUC Project in JIRA.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Click “Dashboards” button at top menu from within the current year MUC Project.</li> <li>2. Click “Manage Dashboards.”</li> <li>3. Click “Create New Dashboard” button at top right of screen.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>5. Click “Add” when finished.</li> <li>6. The new one will now appear on your list of Favorite Dashboards.</li> <li>7. Click on the dashboard to populate or modify it.</li> <li>8. Click the hyperlink “Add a new gadget.” &lt;this step tends to take a while&gt;</li> <li>9. In the box “Gadget Directory,” scroll down the alphabetical list to “Filter Results.”</li> <li>10. Click the button “Add it Now.”</li> <li>11. Click “Close” button on the “Gadget Directory” box.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ol> <p>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:  <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></p>

## Data Fields in JIRA

Question	CMS Response
Should the CMS program name be included in the measure title field?	The CMS program name should not ordinarily be part of the measure title, because each measure record already has a required field that specifies the CMS program. An exception would be if there are several measures with otherwise identical titles that apply to different programs. In this case, including or imbedding the program identifier at the end of each title (to prevent there being any duplicate titles) is helpful.
CMS has emphasized moving toward more Outcome measures and fewer Process measures. How can I tell which Measure Type applies to my candidate measure?	See the glossary in the Measures under Consideration User Guide, and also refer to the CMS Measures Blueprint for further information on how to select the best measure type for your measure.
What is required if I submit an eCQM?	<p>For electronic clinical quality measures, you need to include or attach the following supporting information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NQF (National Quality Forum) feasibility scorecard or other quantitative evidence indicating that the measure can be reported by the intended reporting entities</li> <li>• Bonnie test cases for this measure, with 100% logic coverage</li> <li>• Attestation that value sets are published in Value Set Authority Center</li> </ul> <p>See JIRA screen guidance and the Measures under Consideration User Guide for more information.</p>
When describing the state of development details, what information is requested?	For 2018, the JIRA screen guidance on this field was modified to add: “Related to testing, summarize results from validity testing including number of reporting entities and patients measured, and how validity was assessed. Summarize results from reliability testing including number of reporting entities and patients measured, and how reliability was assessed.”
Is the Measure Information Form (MIF) or Measure Methodology Form required as an attachment in JIRA?	No. It is encouraged but not required. The JIRA screen guidance was modified in 2018 to say: “You are encouraged to attach measure information form (MIF) if available. This is a detailed description of the measure used by NQF during endorsement proceedings. If a MIF is not available, comprehensive measure methodology documents are encouraged.”

Question	CMS Response
<p>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?</p>	<p>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 <u>both</u> 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 CMS <a href="#">Measures under Consideration User Guide for JIRA</a>.</p>
<p>For the state of development data field, what do the options, alpha and beta, mean? What information is CMS looking for in this section?</p>	<p>The point of the question is to ascertain the level of readiness of the measure for primetime. Alpha testing is formative testing, and beta testing is field testing. Further information is available in the Measures under Consideration User Guide and the CMS Measures Blueprint.</p>
<p>Is the requirement for peer review for all new measures under development?</p>	<p>The peer review journal article requirement applies only to candidate MIPS (Merit-Based Incentive Payment System) measures.</p>
<p>What MIPS candidate measure submissions require the Peer Review Template to be completed?</p>	<p>All MIPS candidate measure submissions (both Quality and Cost) require the completion and submission of a Peer Review Template.</p>
<p>How should I complete the Peer Review Template?</p>	<p>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. It will help the evaluation of your candidate measure if you provide supporting details to document your responses.</p>
<p>Who is responsible for submitting these measures for publication: the developer or the Secretary of HHS?</p>	<p>The legislation calls for the Secretary to be responsible for submitting the measure to a peer reviewed journal.</p>

## Measure Applications Partnership (MAP)

Question	CMS Response
When will the MAP workgroup meetings be scheduled?	<p>In general, the Measures under Consideration List is published annually no later than December 1. The MAP workgroup meetings occur in December with the Coordinating Committee meeting in January.</p> <p>For more information visit the National Quality Forum’s website below:  <a href="http://www.qualityforum.org/map/">http://www.qualityforum.org/map/</a></p>
Who can attend the MAP workgroup meetings or the Coordinating Committee meetings?	<p>All MAP meetings are open to the public.</p> <p>For more information visit the National Quality Forum’s website below:  <a href="http://www.qualityforum.org/map/">http://www.qualityforum.org/map/</a></p>
Why should a measure owner, submitter, or steward attend the MAP workgroup meeting?	<p>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.</p>
As a measure owner, submitter, or steward, can I attend the MAP workgroup meetings remotely by teleconference or webinar?	<p>You have the option of attending these public meetings either in-person or via webinar/teleconference.</p>
Does CMS generally provide more feedback for "refine and resubmit"? From a development perspective, how should it be interpreted?	<p>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. Oftentimes, the main refinement MAP suggested was the completion of measure testing.</p>
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	<p>JIRA closes June 15, 2018, for most programs. CMS and NQF recognize that 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 that the MAP workgroups review the most up to date information, measure developers are asked to email any <b>testing</b> updates that occur between June 16 and December 1 to <a href="mailto:MAPupdates@qualityforum.org">MAPupdates@qualityforum.org</a>.</p> <p>Please note this process is <b>only</b> for <b>submitting testing updates</b>. The published Measures under Consideration list will not be revised; updated information will be provided to the MAP in their meeting materials.</p>

Question	CMS Response
<p>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?</p>	<p>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 that a measure will be on the final MUC list.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>

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## For More Information

- Pre-rulemaking Website:  
<https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/QualityMeasures/Pre-Rule-Making.html>
- Link to PDF Document:  
[2017 CMS Measure Needs and Priorities](#)
- Call for measures Website:  
<https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/MMS/Call-for-Measures.html>
- Link to PDF Document:  
[Call for Measures and Activities fact sheet](#)