Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Supplemental Requirement to the 2014 CMS QRDA III Implementation Guide for Eligible Professionals for Performance Rate Calculation
September 24, 2014

The purpose of this supplemental information is to inform participants of a change in the reporting requirement from optional to **mandatory for reporting the performance rate** in the 2014 CMS Eligible Professionals Programs Quality Reporting Document Architecture Category III (version 2.0, 04/18/2014). For the 2014 reporting year, the eCQMs for the Comprehensive Primary Care (CPC) Program, the EHR Incentive Program (MU) Program, and Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS) Program shall require a performance rate value when submitting a QRDA-III report to the CPC, MU, and PQRS programs for the 2014 Reporting Year.

Performance rate is a ratio of the count of patients meeting Numerator criteria, divided by the count of patients in the Denominator population (accounting for exclusions and exceptions). Each Meaningful Use 2 eCQM has a "Measure Scoring" header attribute, which is used to indicate if an eCQM is a proportion measure or a continuous variable measure. Performance rate is only applicable to proportion measures.

Current 2014 Implementation Guide

In Volume 2 of the Implementation Guide (page 41), the following shows the current conformance statements for performance rate, in which the term "MAY" allows for the optional reporting of the performance rate:

7. MAY contain zero or more [0..*] `component` (CONF:17903) such that it

    a. **SHALL** contain exactly one [1..1] **Performance Rate for Proportion Measure (CMS EP)** (templateId:2.16.840.1.113883.10.20.27.3.25) (CONF:711213).

New Requirement for 2014 Implementation Guide

With the reporting change to require the performance rate for all PQRS, MU, and CPC program measures, the following guidance is required:

7. SHALL contain one or more [1..*] `component` (CONF:711290) such that it
    a. **SHALL** contain exactly one [1..1] **Performance Rate for Proportion Measure (CMS EP)** (templateId:2.16.840.1.113883.10.20.27.3.25) (CONF:711213).

With this change, please note that the performance rate template is required, regardless of whether the measure being reported is a proportion measure or a continuous variable measure.

When reporting continuous variable measures, the performance rate can be nulled by using a @nullFlavor="NA" in the value element: <value xsi:type="REAL" nullFlavor="NA" />.

When reporting proportion measures, use of nullFlavor is only allowed for the rare instances when the performance rate value is undefined, the result of division by zero, as in the following cases:

1. All patients who met the Initial Patient Population for a measure did not meet the Denominator's criteria.

2. All patients who met the Denominator for a measure also met a Denominator Exclusion(s).

3. All patients who met the Denominator for a measure also met a Denominator Exception(s).

4. Some patients who met the Denominator for a measure also met a Denominator Exclusion(s), and the remaining patients who met the Denominator for the measure met a Denominator Exception(s).

Any measure that has multiple performance rates must have a performance rate for each component of the measure or the measure is incomplete.