

Quality Payment PROGRAM

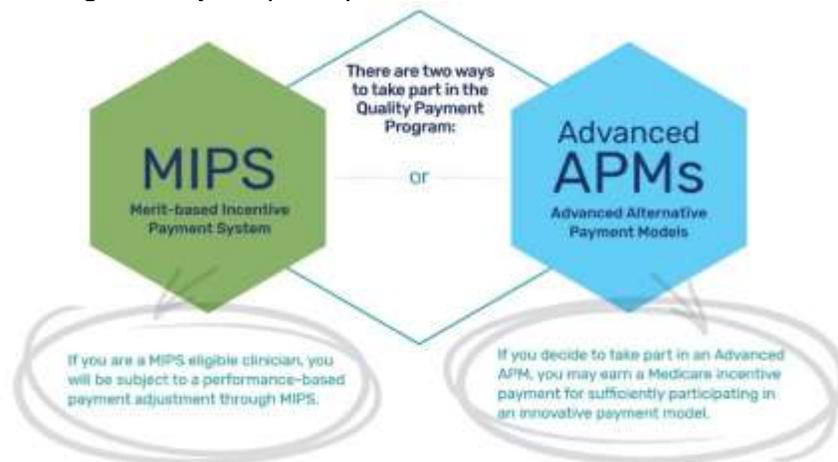
2020 Annual Call for Quality Measures Fact Sheet

[Updated 5/22/2020](#)

CMS is implementing multiple flexibilities to provide relief to clinicians responding to the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID 19) pandemic. Refer to the [Quality Payment Program COVID 19 Response Fact Sheet](#) for more information.

What is the Quality Payment Program?

The Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA) ended the Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) formula, which would have made major cuts to payment rates for clinicians participating in Medicare. The law requires us to implement the Quality Payment Program and gives you the following two ways to participate:



Under MIPS, there are four performance categories that affect your future Medicare payments. Each performance category is scored by itself and has a specific weight that's part of the MIPS Final Score. The MIPS payment adjustment assessed for MIPS eligible clinicians is based on the Final Score.

These are the performance category weights for the 2020 performance period:



[Updated 5/22/2020](#)



What is the MIPS Annual Call for Measures?

The “Annual Call for Measures” process asks these stakeholders and others for their feedback:

- Clinicians
- Professional associations and medical societies that represent eligible clinicians
- Researchers
- Consumer groups
- Other stakeholders

Specifically, we are asking them to send us Quality measures for consideration in the Quality performance category.

Stakeholder recommendations are part of our rigorous quality measure selection process. It’s unlikely that stakeholders will send us measures or activities that they don’t think apply to clinicians or can be reliably and validly measured at the individual clinician level. As part of our quality measure selection process, we ask stakeholders to recommend quality measures by submitting specifications, as well as related research and background, to us to review and consider. This information helps us to know if suggested quality measures apply to clinicians and are:

- Feasible
- Reliable
- Valid at the individual clinician level
- Evidence-based
- Scientifically acceptable

Right now, we won’t accept Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) measures that Tribes and Urban Indian health organizations are already required to report as quality measures. There are many GPRA measures that are similar to measures that are already in the program. Also, some GPRA measures are similar to measures that are part of a Core Quality Measure Collaborative (CQMC) core measure set.

As much as possible, we want to reduce the duplication of measures and align with measures used by private payer health insurances. If there are measures reportable within GPRA that don’t duplicate MIPS measures, we urge our stakeholders to work with measure owners to submit them during our annual Call for Measures.

When Do We Pick Measures?

We use stakeholder feedback to pick measures and activities that are:

- Applicable
- Feasible
- Scientifically acceptable
- Reliable
- Valid at the individual clinician level
- Unique in comparison to existing measures and activities for notice and comment rulemaking



The recommended list of new measures is made publicly available for comment within a set period of time. We evaluate the comments received from the rulemaking process before we make the final measure choices. A final annual list of measures for MIPS eligible clinicians will be published in the Federal Register no later than November 1 of the year before the first day of a performance period.

This means that for the 2021 program year, the final clinical quality measures for the Quality performance category published in the “Federal Register” will be available November 1, 2020. We’ll also post all final measures on <https://qpp.cms.gov>.

Quality Performance Category

What are Quality Measures?

Quality measures are tools that help us measure or quantify health care processes, outcomes, and patient perceptions that go with being able to give high quality health care. Quality measures also help us link outcomes that relate to one or more of these quality goals for health care that’s:

- Effective
- Safe
- Efficient
- Patient-centered
- Equitable
- Timely

How Do We Pick Quality Measures?

The National Quality Forum (NQF) formed the Measure Application Partnership (MAP) to give stakeholders the chance to say whether the measures being considered are applicable to clinicians, feasible, scientifically acceptable, reliable, and valid at the clinician level.

The MAP meets every year (usually in December and January) to give input on measures for different Medicare quality programs. To make the annual list of quality measures, we give stakeholders the chance to give input on proposed measures through notice and comment rulemaking. The law also requires us to submit new measures to an applicable, specialty-appropriate peer reviewed journal.

The quality measures performance category focuses on measures in the following domains for future measure consideration and selection:

- Effective clinical care
- Patient safety
- Communication and care coordination
- Person and caregiver-centered experience and outcomes
- Community and population health
- Efficiency and cost reduction

Appendix 1 has more details on MIPS 2020 measure priorities and needs.

[Updated 5/22/2020](#)

What is the Quality Measures Submission Process?

The customary ONC Jira platform will not be used for 2020 measure submissions. CMS is implementing a new submission process to accommodate the unique circumstances of this Pre-Rulemaking cycle. For the 2020 submission period, stakeholders can submit candidate quality measure specifications and all supporting data files for CMS review by completing [MUC template blank](#) available on the [CMS Pre-Rulemaking website](#) and emailing it to prerulemaking@battelle.org. Please refer to the guidance within the template and the Pre-Rulemaking Transition document (PDF). The submission period opened on January 22, 2020 and will close for submissions on June 30, 2020.

If complete test data is not available by June 30, 2020 or if new data is collected thereafter, measure stewards are asked to submit the data to the same e-mail address no later than Friday, September 4, 2020. Due to the challenging time we are faced with during this 2020 pre-rulemaking cycle, CMS is offering the September 4 extension to enable measure developers to provide any new testing-related supporting data and to update any testing-dependent measure specifications for new 2020 candidate measures that were submitted prior to June 30, 2020.

When stakeholders submit measures that don't make the final (MUC) list, they or their point of contact will be contacted via email to let them know. We'll give the submitters the reason we're not recommending the measure for MAP review. If we recommend that the measure should be revised and resubmitted, the stakeholder can resubmit the measure in the next annual Call for Measures cycle.

Where Can I Learn More?

- [Quality Payment Program](#)
- [Quality Measures Specifications](#)
- [CMS Call for Measures Webpage](#)
- [COVID-19 Response Fact Sheet](#)

Appendix I

Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) 2020 Quality Measure Needs and Priorities Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Center for Clinical Standards and Quality April 2019

Merit-based Incentive Payment System

Program History and Structure

The Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA) ended the Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) formula, which would have resulted in a significant cut to payment rates for clinicians participating in Medicare. MACRA requires CMS by law to implement an incentive program for clinicians. This program, referred to as the Quality Payment Program, provides two participation pathways for clinicians:

- The Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS)
- Advanced Alternative Payment Models (Advanced APMs)

MIPS combines three Medicare “legacy” programs – the Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS), Value-based Payment Modifier (VM), and the Medicare EHR Incentive Program for Eligible Professionals – into a single program. Under MIPS, there are four connected performance categories that will affect a clinician’s future Medicare payments. Each performance category is scored independently and has a specific weight, indicating its contribution towards the MIPS Final Score. The MIPS performance categories and their 2020 weights towards the final score are: Quality (45%); Promoting Interoperability (25%); Improvement Activities (15%); and Cost (15%). The final score (100%) will be the basis for the MIPS payment adjustment assessed for MIPS eligible clinicians.

Quality Performance Category

Current Program Measure Information

To implement the quality performance category of MIPS, CMS anticipates using the [Annual Call for Measures](#) that lets clinicians and organizations, including but not limited to those representing MIPS eligible clinicians (professional associations and medical societies) and other stakeholders (researchers and consumer groups) submit quality measures for consideration.

The recommended list of new quality measures will be publicly available for comment through the rulemaking process before making a final selection of new quality measures. This list does not include Qualified Clinical Data Registry (QCDR) measures as those measures are proposed and selected through a separate process.

The quality performance category focuses on measures in the following six domains for future measure thought and selection. The following is a table detailing the number of quality measures prioritized under each domain that are currently implemented in the MIPS program:

MIPS Measure Domain	Number of Quality Measures in MIPS	
	Implemented/Finalized* (2020 Measure Set)	Proposed ** (2019 MUC list)
Effective Clinical Care	93	TBD***
Patient Safety	35	TBD***
Communication/Care Coordination	34	TBD***
Community/Population Health	14	TBD***
Efficiency and Cost Reduction	19	TBD***
Person and Caregiver-Centered Experience and Outcomes	23	TBD***
TOTAL	218	TBD***

*Implemented/Finalized: Quality measures implemented/finalized for data collection.

**Proposed: The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) has not yet been released that would include proposed measures from the 2019 Measures Under Consideration (MUC) list.

***To Be Determined as of January 2020.

High Priority Quality Measures for Future Consideration

CMS will not propose the implementation of measures that do not meet the MIPS criteria of performance and measure set gaps. The gap areas include, but are not limited to: Orthopedic Surgery, Pathology, Radiology, Mental Health and substance use conditions, Oncology, Palliative Care, and Emergency Medicine. MIPS has a priority focus on outcome measures, measures that provide new measure options within a topped out specialty area or measures that are relevant for specialty providers. CMS identified outcome measures and opioid-related measures as high-priority for future measure consideration. Outcome measures show how a health care service or intervention influences the health status of patients. For example, the percentage of patients who died because of surgery (surgical mortality rates) or the rate of surgical complications or hospital-acquired infections. CMS identifies the following as high-priority for future measure consideration:

1. Person and caregiver-centered Experience and Outcomes: This means that the measure should address the experience of each person and their family; and the extent to which they are engaged as partners in their care.
 - a. CMS wants to specifically focus on patient reported outcome measures (PROMs). Person or family-reported experiences of being engaged as active members of the health care team and in collaborative partnerships with providers and provider organizations.

2. **Communication and Care Coordination:** This means that the measure must address the promotion of effective communication and coordination of care; and coordination of care and treatment with other providers.
3. **Efficiency/ Cost Reduction:** This means that the measure must address the affordability of health care including unnecessary health services, inefficiencies in health care delivery, high prices, or fraud. Measures should cause change in efficiency and reward value over volume.
4. **Patient Safety:** This means that the measure must address either an explicit structure or process intended to make care safer, or the outcome of the presence or absence of such a structure or process; and harm caused in the delivery of care. This means that the structure, process or outcome must occur as a part of or as a result of the delivery of care.
5. **Appropriate Use:** CMS wants to specifically focus on appropriate use measures. This means that the measure must address appropriate use of services, including measures of over-use.

A measure may be considered topped out if measure performance is so high and unvarying that meaningful distinctions and improvement in performance can no longer be made. Topped out process measures are those with a median performance rate of 95 percent or higher, while non-process measures are considered topped out if the truncated coefficient of variation is less than 0.10 and the 75th and 90th percentiles are within two standard errors. CMS continues to identify topped out measures through the benchmark file. The column labeled topped out in the benchmark file will indicate whether the measure is topped out with a designation of “yes”. In the 2020 Benchmark File, an additional column identifying extremely topped out quality measure will be added. The identification of topped out measures may lead to potential measure gaps. Through the use of the topped out measure criteria and additional criteria that are only intended to phase in the topped out scoring policy, CMS has identified 86 quality measures that will activate the special topped out scoring policy, beginning with the 2020 performance period.

The 86 quality measures are:

Measure Titles for 2020 Topped Out Measures	Quality ID Number (Q#)	Collection Type
Heart Failure (HF): Beta-Blocker Therapy for Left Ventricular Systolic Dysfunction (LVSD)	8	MIPS CQM
Primary Open-Angle Glaucoma (POAG): Optic Nerve Evaluation	12	Medicare Part B Claims, MIPS CQM
Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD): Dilated Macular Examination	14	Medicare Part B Claims, MIPS CQM

Measure Titles for 2020 Topped Out Measures	Quality ID Number (Q#)	Collection Type
Diabetic Retinopathy: Communication with the Physician Managing Ongoing Diabetes Care	19	MIPS CQM
Perioperative Care: Selection of Prophylactic Antibiotic - First OR Second-Generation Cephalosporin	21	Medicare Part B Claims, MIPS CQM
Perioperative Care: Venous Thromboembolism (VTE) Prophylaxis (When Indicated in ALL Patients)	23	Medicare Part B Claims, MIPS CQM
Communication with the Physician or Other Clinician Managing On-Going Care Post-Fracture for Men and Women Aged 50 Years and Older	24	Medicare Part B Claims
Coronary Artery Bypass Graft (CABG): Preoperative Beta-Blocker in Patients with Isolated CABG Surgery	44	MIPS CQM
Advance Care Plan	47	Medicare Part B Claims
Urinary Incontinence: Assessment of Presence or Absence of Urinary Incontinence in Women Aged 65 Years and Older	48	Medicare Part B Claims
Urinary Incontinence: Plan of Care for Urinary Incontinence in Women Aged 65 Years and Older	50	Medicare Part B Claims
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD): Long-Acting Inhaled Bronchodilator Therapy	52	Medicare Part B Claims MIPS CQM
Appropriate Treatment for Children with Upper Respiratory Infection (URI)	65	MIPS CQM
Prevention of Central Venous Catheter (CVC) - Related Bloodstream Infections	76	Medicare Part B Claims MIPS CQM
Acute Otitis Externa (AOE): Systemic Antimicrobial Therapy - Avoidance of Inappropriate Use	93	Medicare Part B Claims MIPS CQM
Prostate Cancer: Avoidance of Overuse of Bone Scan for Staging Low Risk Prostate Cancer Patients	102	MIPS CQM
Prostate Cancer: Combination Androgen Deprivation Therapy for High Risk or Very High Risk Prostate Cancer	104	MIPS CQM
Diabetes: Eye Exam	117	Medicare Part B Claims MIPS CQM
Preventive Care and Screening: Body Mass Index (BMI) Screening and Follow-Up Plan	128	Medicare Part B Claims

[Updated 5/22/2020](#)

Measure Titles for 2020 Topped Out Measures	Quality ID Number (Q#)	Collection Type
Documentation of Current Medications in the Medical Record	130	Medicare Part B Claims eCQM MIPS CQM
Preventive Care and Screening: Screening for Depression and Follow-Up Plan	134	Medicare Part B Claims
Melanoma: Coordination of Care	138	MIPS CQM
Oncology: Medical and Radiation - Pain Intensity Quantified	143	eCQM MIPS CQM
Radiology: Exposure Dose Indices or Exposure Time and Number of Images Reported for Procedures Using Fluoroscopy	145	Medicare Part B Claims MIPS CQM
Radiology: Inappropriate Use of "Probably Benign" Assessment Category in Screening Mammograms	146	Medicare Part B Claims MIPS CQM
Nuclear Medicine: Correlation with Existing Imaging Studies for All Patients Undergoing Bone Scintigraphy	147	Medicare Part B Claims MIPS CQM
Falls: Risk Assessment	154	Medicare Part B Claims MIPS CQM
Falls: Plan of Care	155	Medicare Part B Claims
Coronary Artery Bypass Graft (CABG): Postoperative Renal Failure	167	MIPS CQM
Coronary Artery Bypass Graft (CABG): Surgical Re-Exploration	168	MIPS CQM
Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA): Functional Status Assessment	178	MIPS CQM
Elder Maltreatment Screen and Follow-Up Plan	181	Medicare Part B Claims
Functional Outcome Assessment	182	Medicare Part B Claims
Colonoscopy Interval for Patients with a History of Adenomatous Polyps - Avoidance of Inappropriate Use	185	MIPS CQM
Stroke and Stroke Rehabilitation: Thrombolytic Therapy	187	MIPS CQM

[Updated 5/22/2020](#)

Measure Titles for 2020 Topped Out Measures	Quality ID Number (Q#)	Collection Type
Cataracts: 20/40 or Better Visual Acuity within 90 Days Following Cataract Surgery	191	MIPS CQM
Radiology: Stenosis Measurement in Carotid Imaging Reports	195	Medicare Part B Claims MIPS CQM
Preventive Care and Screening: Tobacco Use: Screening and Cessation Intervention	226	Medicare Part B Claims
Use of High-Risk Medications in the Elderly	238	eCQM MIPS CQM
Barrett's Esophagus	249	Medicare Part B Claims MIPS CQM
Radical Prostatectomy Pathology Reporting	250	Medicare Part B Claims MIPS CQM
Ultrasound Determination of Pregnancy Location for Pregnant Patients with Abdominal Pain	254	MIPS CQM
Sentinel Lymph Node Biopsy for Invasive Breast Cancer	264	MIPS CQM
Biopsy Follow-Up	265	MIPS CQM
Sleep Apnea: Assessment of Adherence to Positive Airway Pressure Therapy	279	MIPS CQM
Dementia: Functional Status Assessment	282	MIPS CQM
Dementia Associated Behavioral and Psychiatric Symptoms Screening and Management	283	MIPS CQM
Dementia: Safety Concern Screening and Follow-Up for Patients with Dementia	286	MIPS CQM
Parkinson's Disease: Cognitive Impairment or Dysfunction Assessment for Patients with Parkinson's Disease	291	MIPS CQM
Parkinson's Disease: Rehabilitative Therapy Options	293	MIPS CQM
Preventive Care and Screening: Screening for High Blood Pressure and Follow-Up Documented	317	Medicare Part B Claims
Appropriate Follow-Up Interval for Normal Colonoscopy in Average Risk Patients	320	Medicare Part B Claims MIPS CQM

[Updated 5/22/2020](#)

Measure Titles for 2020 Topped Out Measures	Quality ID Number (Q#)	Collection Type
Cardiac Stress Imaging Not Meeting Appropriate Use Criteria: Preoperative Evaluation in Low-Risk Surgery Patients	322	MIPS CQM
Cardiac Stress Imaging Not Meeting Appropriate Use Criteria: Routine Testing After Percutaneous Coronary Intervention (PCI)	323	MIPS CQM
Cardiac Stress Imaging Not Meeting Appropriate Use Criteria: Testing in Asymptomatic, Low-Risk Patients	324	MIPS CQM
Atrial Fibrillation and Atrial Flutter: Chronic Anticoagulation Therapy	326	Medicare Part B Claims MIPS CQM
Adult Sinusitis: Appropriate Choice of Antibiotic: Amoxicillin With or Without Clavulanate Prescribed for Patients with Acute Bacterial Sinusitis (Appropriate Use)	332	MIPS CQM
Adult Sinusitis: Computerized Tomography (CT) for Acute Sinusitis (Overuse)	333	MIPS CQM
Total Knee Replacement: Shared Decision-Making: Trial of Conservative (Non-surgical) Therapy	350	MIPS CQM
Total Knee Replacement: Venous Thromboembolic and Cardiovascular Risk Evaluation	351	MIPS CQM
Anastomotic Leak Intervention	354	MIPS CQM
Unplanned Reoperation within the 30 Day Postoperative Period	355	MIPS CQM
Unplanned Hospital Readmission within 30 Days of Principal Procedure	356	MIPS CQM
Surgical Site Infection (SSI)	357	MIPS CQM
Patient-Centered Surgical Risk Assessment and Communication	358	MIPS CQM
Optimizing Patient Exposure to Ionizing Radiation: Count of Potential High Dose Radiation Imaging Studies: Computed Tomography (CT) and Cardiac Nuclear Medicine Studies	360	MIPS CQM
Closing the Referral Loop: Receipt of Specialist Report	374	MIPS CQM
Children Who Have Dental Decay or Cavities	378	eCQM

[Updated 5/22/2020](#)

Measure Titles for 2020 Topped Out Measures	Quality ID Number (Q#)	Collection Type
Adult Primary Rhegmatogenous Retinal Detachment Surgery: No Return to the Operating Room Within 90 Days of Surgery	384	MIPS CQM
Hepatitis C: Discussion and Shared Decision Making Surrounding Treatment Options	390	MIPS CQM
Lung Cancer Reporting (Biopsy/Cytology Specimens)	395	Medicare Part B Claims MIPS CQM
Lung Cancer Reporting (Resection Specimens)	396	MIPS CQM
Melanoma Reporting	397	Medicare Part B Claims MIPS CQM
Tobacco Use and Help with Quitting Among Adolescents	402	MIPS CQM
Appropriate Follow-up Imaging for Incidental Thyroid Nodules in Patients	406	Medicare Part B Claims MIPS CQM
Opioid Therapy Follow-up Evaluation	408	MIPS CQM
Documentation of Signed Opioid Treatment Agreement	412	MIPS CQM
Evaluation or Interview for Risk of Opioid Misuse	414	MIPS CQM
Perioperative Temperature Management	424	MIPS CQM
Prevention of Post-Operative Nausea and Vomiting (PONV) - Combination Therapy	430	MIPS CQM
Radiation Consideration for Adult CT: Utilization of Dose Lowering Techniques	436	Medicare Part B Claims MIPS CQM
Skin Cancer: Biopsy Reporting Time - Pathologist to Clinician	440	MIPS CQM
Non-Recommended Cervical Cancer Screening in Adolescent Females	443	MIPS CQM
Medication Management for People with Asthma	444	MIPS CQM
Prevention of Post-Operative Vomiting (POV) - Combination Therapy (Pediatrics)	463	MIPS CQM
Otitis Media with Effusion: Systemic Antimicrobials - Avoidance of Inappropriate Use	464	MIPS CQM

As topped out measures are removed from the program, CMS will monitor the impact of these removals on the quality measure specialty sets that are available for clinician reporting. CMS strongly encourages measure developers to review the benchmark file that identifies topped out

measures, and develop measures that may replace those topped out measures for future program years. In addition, CMS also welcomes stakeholder suggestions to address these potential gaps within the measure sets.

* For reference purposes, the 2020 Benchmark file is posted online here: <https://qpp-cm-prod-content.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/824/2020%20MIPS%20Quality%20Benchmarks.zip>

Measure Requirements

CMS applies criteria for measures that may be considered for potential inclusion in the MIPS. At a minimum, the following criteria and requirements must be met for selection in the MIPS:

CMS is statutorily required to select measures that reflect consensus among affected parties, and to the extent feasible, include measures set forth by one or more national consensus building entities.

To the extent practicable, quality measures selected for inclusion on the final list will address at least one of the following MIPS quality domains: Communication and Care Coordination, Community/Population Health, Effective Clinical Care, Efficiency and Cost Reduction, Patient Safety, Person and Caregiver-Centered Experience and Outcomes. In addition, before including a new measure in MIPS, CMS is required to submit for publication in an applicable specialty-appropriate, peer-reviewed journal the measure and the method for developing the measure, including clinical and other data supporting the measure.

NEW for 2020 Beginning with the 2020 MIPS performance period Call for Measures process, MIPS quality measure stewards will be required to link their MIPS quality measures to existing and related cost measures and improvement activities, as applicable and feasible. MIPS quality measure stewards will be required to provide a rationale as to how they believe their measure correlates to other performance category measures and activities as a part of the Call for Measures process.

- Measures implemented in MIPS may be available for public reporting on Physician Compare.
 - Measures must be fully developed, with completed testing results at the clinician level and ready for implementation at the time of submission (CMS' internal evaluation).
 - Preference will be given to measures that are endorsed by the National Quality Forum (NQF).
 - Measures should not duplicate other measures currently in the MIPS. Duplicative measures are assessed to see which would be the better measure for the MIPS measure set.
 - Measure performance and evidence should identify opportunities for improvement. CMS does not intend to implement measures in which evidence identifies high levels of performance with little variation or opportunity for improvement, e.g., measures that are "topped out."
 - Section 101(c)(1) of the MACRA requires submission of new measures for publication in applicable specialty-appropriate, peer-reviewed journals prior to implementing in

- MIPS. The Peer-Review Journal template provided by CMS, must accompany each measures submission. Please see the template for additional information.
- eCQMs must meet EHR system infrastructure requirements, as defined by MIPS regulation. Beginning with calendar year 2019, eCQMs use clinical quality language (CQL) as the expression logic used in the Health Quality Measure Format (HQMF). CQL replaces the logic expressions previously defined in the Quality Data Model (QDM).
 - The data collection mechanisms must be able to transmit and receive requirements as identified in MIPS regulation. For example, eCQMs being submitted as Quality Reporting Data Architecture (QRDA) III must meet QRDA – III standards as defined in the CMS QRDA III Implementation Guide.
 - eCQMs must have HQMF output from the Measure Authoring Tool (MAT), using MAT v5.7, or more recent, with implementation of the clinical quality language logic. Additional information on the MAT can be found at <https://ecqi.healthit.gov/ecqm-tools/tool-library/measure-authoring-tool>
 - Bonnie test cases must accompany each measure submission. Additional information on eCQM tools and resources can be found at <https://ecqi.healthit.gov/ecqi-tools-key-resources>
 - https://ecqi.healthit.gov/ecqms?title=Measure%20Authoring%20Tool%20%28MAT%29&qt-tabs_ecqm=2.
 - Feasibility, reliability and validity testing must be conducted for eCQMs.
 - Testing data must accompany submission. For example, if a measure is being reported as CQM and eCQM, testing data for both versions must be submitted.
 - eCQM readiness: How do I know if an eCQM is ready for implementation in MIPS?

Step 1: Assess and Document eCQM Characteristics

Characteristic	Testing	Documentation for CMS*
Is the eCQM feasible?	Feasibility test results	NQF's feasibility score card
Is the eCQM a valid measure of quality and/or are the data elements in the eCQM valid?	Correlation of data element or measure score with 'gold-standard', or face validity results	Kappa agreement between EHR extracted data element and chart abstract and/or correlation between measure score and a related external measure of quality; information about data used for testing (e.g., number of practices, number of providers)

Characteristic	Testing	Documentation for CMS*
Is the eCQM reliable?	Provider level reliability testing for measure score in the setting which the measure is intended to be reported	Reliability coefficient using signal-to-noise or split half inter-rater reliability; information about data used for testing (e.g., number of practices, number of providers).

Step 2: Assess and Document eCQM Specification Readiness

Requirement	Tool	Documentation for CMS
Specify eCQM according to CMS and ONC standards	Measure Authoring Tool (MAT)	MAT output to include, at minimum, HQMF and human readable files
Create value sets that use current, standardized terminologies	The National Library of Medicine's Value Set Authority Center (VSAC)	Published value sets in the VSAC that have been validated against the most recent terminology expansion with 100% active codes
Test eCQM logic using a set of test cases that cover all branches of logic with 100% pass rate	Bonnie	Excel file of test patients showing testing results (Bonnie export)

References

- [Value Set Authority Center](#)
- [Bonnie](#)
- [eCQI Resource Center](#)
- [CMS Measures Management System Blueprint](#)
- [Overview of Rulemaking Process for Measure Selection](#)
- [Quality Payment Program](#)
- [Cost Measures](#)
- [Improvement Activities](#)

Version History Table

Date	Change Description
5/22/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Updated extension to Call for Measures closing, measure testing extension and process to submit candidate quality measures.• Added disclaimer language regarding changes to 2019 MIPS in response to COVID-19.
2/21/2020	Original posting

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