Cascade of Measures: Overview

The **Cascade of Measures** is a tool to help prioritize existing health care quality measures, align or reduce measures where there are too many, and identify gaps where new measures may need to be developed. It also provides a way to map current measure standards and individual measures to the Meaningful Measures 2.0 Framework (Figure 1).

**Figure 1. Meaningful Measures 2.0 Framework**

![Meaningful Measures 2.0 Framework Diagram]

Ultimately, the goal of the Cascade is to:

- Prioritize measures in development and measures in use.
- Help programs move from existing process and outcome measures at the Measure Family level to develop more expansive outcome measures and composites at the Goal and Objective level. This will help reduce the number of measures in CMS programs, support alignment, and better reflect priorities.

**How to Use the Cascade of Measures**

Reading from left to right, the Cascade displays an increasingly fine level of detail about which components of the health care system are being measured (Figure 2). It moves from the 8 Meaningful Measures Health Care Priorities, to Goals, to Objectives, to Measure Families, and, finally, examples of individual measures in the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Inventory Tool (CMIT):

- **Goals**: key aspirational targets that contribute to a health care priority area.
- **Objectives**: measurable indicators used to assess Goal performance.
- **Measure Families**: resources, processes, and conditions that must be present to successfully meet an objective. Objectives are comprised by one or more Measure Families.
• **Example Measures**: each Measure Family can be operationalized by one or more clinical quality measures. The example measures here are intended to help clarify how Measure Families work and start highlighting gaps in measurement, as well as areas that may be well-suited to measure reduction or alignment efforts.

The Cascade indicates CMS priorities and can be used to direct future measure development. Leveraging the Cascade to its full potential means considering how the larger aggregations (Objectives, Goals, Health Care Priorities) might be quantified using an appropriate constellation of measures.

Figure 2. Cascade of Measures Schematic

**Development & Evolution of the Cascade of Measures**

The Cascade of Measures incorporates significant stakeholder feedback received through the fall of 2021. However, some components of the framework are still in development pending additional stakeholder input and literature review to identify measurement priorities and ensure all critical concepts are included. We’ve already mapped the measures currently used by CMS programs onto Measure Families to provide a more complete picture of areas for future measure development and alignment.