

# Measures Management and You

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

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[Edition 4, Volume 1]

## Welcome!

This month's newsletter includes a discussion of version 12.0 of the Blueprint, as well as a review of the Specification Phase of the CMS Measures Management System (MMS). Every edition includes a link to the latest CMS Blueprint as well as a calendar of upcoming opportunities and events.

We hope you find this newsletter useful and we welcome any feedback or suggestions to make it even better.

Please send comments or suggestions for future newsletters to [MMSSupport@battelle.org](mailto:MMSSupport@battelle.org).

## Measures Management & You Blueprint 12.0

We are very excited to announce the release of the CMS MMS Blueprint version 12.0! This latest version of the Blueprint has been completely reformatted to enhance its usability and relevance for the measure development community.

The Blueprint now contains a brief introductory section, which outlines the CMS philosophy and intent of measure development. It then provides a brief, high-level overview of the CMS measure development process, as seen through the measure lifecycle. This lifecycle section has five (5) chapters which correspond to the five (5) phases of the lifecycle: Measure

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Conceptualization, Measure Specification, Measure Testing, Measure Implementation, and Measure Use, Continuing Evaluation and Maintenance. Each of these chapters touches on the fundamental steps that measure developers undertake in each phase, as well as the contract deliverables that they develop in the process.

Technical elements within this process overview are then hyperlinked to stand-alone, in-depth chapters that detail every aspect of measure development. These in-depth chapter topics range from CMS priorities planning to the details of risk adjustment. Although these articles chronologically follow the measure lifecycle,

they are not meant to be read as a single entity from beginning to end. Rather, they are individual reference articles with a high degree of granularity for a more detailed understanding of each aspect of the measure development process.

Substantively, Blueprint content changes for this revision cycle included a total overhaul of the text regarding business case development as well as person and family engagement practices. Both of these sets of revisions aim to provide the reader with greater detail on the expectations, practices and field examples for completing each of these

critical aspects of the measure development process.

While some shorter term revisions of the Blueprint may occur this summer, the next major Blueprint revision, version 13.0, is anticipated for release in December 2016. That version will provide a fresh look at the eMeasures development process.

Click [here](#) for the latest version (12.0) of the Blueprint. If you have questions, comments, or suggestions on the Blueprint, please feel free to contact us at [MMSSupport@Battelle.org](mailto:MMSSupport@Battelle.org)

## *Measures Management Up Close*

Each month, we will bring you an introspective look at a measures management topic.

### **Specification Phase of the Measures Management System Process**

During this phase of the process the measure developer develops and documents the technical specifications, or details, for draft measures: what will be collected, what will be excluded, how it will be collected, and how it will be reported.

CMS selects the draft measures that should be explored in more depth. The measures may be brand new (coming out of the conceptualization phase), or may be existing measures that need to be adapted to a new care setting or population or just updated based on new information and experience. The developer generates details for the measure so that information will be collected

correctly and the results will be useful. Some of those details include the target population and the specific care they have received or the health condition they have (i.e., women over 40 who have diabetes), identifying where the information on this will be gathered (i.e., the hospital, a clinic or a pharmacy), and the timeframe in which the information will be gathered. The anticipated positive impact the measure will have on quality of healthcare will also be documented.

After the measure developer has gathered the initial specifications, the [Technical Expert Panel](#) (TEP) will review it and provide recommended

changes. There might also be a [public comment](#) period to get additional feedback. The developer may do alpha testing; this is early testing to make sure that the data can be collected and used. After making the recommended changes and doing the early testing, the TEP will look at the results and decide if it should be submitted to CMS for approval.

## *Patient Relationship Categories*

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is announcing the public posting of the Patient Relationship Categories draft list as required under section 101(f) of the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA).

### **What is the purpose of the Patient Relationship Categories?**

MACRA requires that CMS post the draft patient relationship categories and codes for public comment. CMS will analyze the public comments received to inform development of the operational list of Patient Relationship Categories and Codes, to be published in April 2017. CMS will also consider how these may be used in future resource use measure development.

A summary, which provides draft patient relationship categories for public comment as well as the CMS policy principles used in developing the draft categories, is now available. The posting includes examples that illustrate how clinicians relate to their patients. We have also included a number of questions for consideration by the public, which will help us in the

At the end of this phase, CMS approved draft measures will go into testing. For detailed information on specification, see Section 2, Chapter 2 of the [latest version of the MMS Blueprint](#).

development of our operational list of Patient Relationship Categories and Codes.

### **Would you like to comment?**

To view the Patient Relationship Categories draft list, visit:

<https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/Value-Based-Programs/MACRA-MIPS-and-APMs/MACRA-Feedback.html>

Please submit any comments to:

[patientrelationshipcodes@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:patientrelationshipcodes@cms.hhs.gov)  
by August 15, 2016.

The final Patient Relationship Categories list will be available in April 2017, in accordance with the MACRA requirements.

## Upcoming Events

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- MACRA Listening Session: Quality Payment Program Proposed Rule on May 10, 2016 at 2:00-3:00 p.m. EDT
  - Register for the event at the following link:  
<http://www.eventsvc.com/blhtechnologies/register/3592f00e-fa68-4adc-8169-93abcf3165f4>
- Webinar titled: “Overall Hospital Quality Start Ratings on Hospital Compare” on May 12, 2016 at 1:00-2:00 p.m. EDT
  - Register for the event at the following link:  
<http://www.qualityreportingcenter.com/event/overall-hospital-quality-start-ratings-on-hospital-compare/>
- Webinar titled “2015 Mid-Year QRURs Webcast” on May 19, 2016 at 1:30-3:00 p.m. EDT.
  - Register for the webinar at the following link:  
<http://www.eventsvc.com/blhtechnologies/register/77ece87a-ba89-4b5d-a941-641502e461dd>
- 2016 ONC Annual Meeting: “Committed to Better Care through Health IT.”
  - Register for the event at the following link:  
<https://www.healthit.gov/oncmeeting>

## Updated Electronic Clinical Quality Measures (eCQMs) for 2017

For information on the Updated Electronic Clinical Quality Measures (eCQMs) for 2017 and Opportunities to participate in electronic clinical quality measure (eCQM) testing see our previous newsletter. You can find all the previous [Measures Management & You newsletters](#) on the Listserv page of the MMS website.

## Upcoming Opportunities

### Opportunities for [Public Comment](#) on quality measures

Use of Antipsychotics in Older Adults in the Inpatient Hospital Setting

- Public comment period opens April 15 and will close May 15.

Please check the [CMS Quality Measures Public Comment Web Page](#) for current Public Comment announcements and summary reports.

### Opportunities to participate in a [Technical Expert Panel \(TEP\)](#)

Currently there are no open TEP nominations. Please check the [CMS Quality Measures Call for TEP Web Page](#) for current TEP membership lists and meeting summaries.

### Opportunity to provide public comments on [Patient Relationship Categories](#)

CMS is announcing the public posting of the Patient Relationship Categories draft list as required under section 101(f) of the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA). Please submit any comments to [patientrelationshipcodes@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:patientrelationshipcodes@cms.hhs.gov) by August 15, 2016.

*New to the listserv or miss a month? Find all of our announcements [here](#).*

*Please send comments and suggestions to [MMSSupport@battelle.org](mailto:MMSSupport@battelle.org).*

