Measure Management and You

Volume 3, Edition 4

Welcome!

This month's newsletter provides an overview of measure testing and person and family engagement in measure development. Every edition includes links to the CMS Blueprint (the version in use at the time of publication), as well as a calendar of upcoming events and opportunities.

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.

Measure Testing

How do we know if a quality measure is technically suitable? How do we assess the strengths and weaknesses of a measure? Like any other product, we test it. Measure testing allows us to:

- Refine measure specifications before they are finalized.
- Rethink the measure's importance, if necessary.
- Re-evaluate the feasibility, usability, and scientific acceptability of the measure.

Measures may be tested one at a time, or as part of a set. Information gathered through Measure Testing is a part of full measure development. Proper Measure Testing and analysis is critical to measure approval by CMS and endorsement by the National Quality Forum (NQF).

As a process, measure Testing requires going through several steps in multiple cycles, including:

- Developing and implementing a measure testing plan
- Analyzing the test results, and
- Repeatedly refining and retesting the measure until it meets testing criteria.

Stakeholder input is often used at several points during the testing process. This input can take many forms, including but not limited to, formal technical expert panels (TEPs), consultation with subject matter experts (SMEs), outreach to professional associations or patient advocacy groups,

and public comments. It is very important to follow up on those communications by providing additional opportunities for stakeholders to comment on the results of their inputs at future stages.

For more information on Measure Testing, access the full article on the MMS website.

Want to learn more about Measure Testing? See our website for an overview of CMS Measure testing.

Person and Family Engagement

Involving persons and family representatives in the measure development process is one of the many ways that CMS strives to accomplish its goal of strengthening person and family engagement as partners in their care[1]. As used here, the term *person* refers to a non-healthcare professional representing those who receive healthcare. *Family representatives* are other non-healthcare professionals supporting those who receive healthcare, such as caregivers.

A variety of engagement techniques are available to measure developers. Specific techniques and best practices for their implementation are discussed in detail in the MMS Blueprint. Regardless of the engagement methods developers use, it is critical that they provide person and family representatives with clear expectations

about what their participation in measure development activities will entail.

Prior to measure conceptualization, measure developers should create a plan outlining how they will incorporate person and/or family representative input at each stage of the measure lifecycle. Developers should involve persons and/or family representatives as early as possible to ensure their perspectives are captured adequately.

For more information on person and family engagement, access the full article on the MMS website.

Benefits of Person/Family Engagement

Person and family engagement supports:

- Identification of issues that are important and meaningful to consumers.
- Identification of information that consumers need to make informed healthcare decisions.
- Production of useful, high quality measures.
- Development of messaging that resonates with the public.

Special Announcements

Now Open! JIRA MUC Project 2018

JIRA is now open to collect candidate measures for the CMS 2018 Measures under Consideration (MUC) List. If you are an authorized user of the 2017 or prior years' JIRA web interface for the MUC List, you should have access to the new 2018 MUC Project.

New candidate measures for most CMS programs will be accepted until June 15, 2018. If you have a **_quality_** measure for Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS), the last day to submit your measure in JIRA is June 1, 2018.

For access to JIRA and the 2018 MUC Project, you must have an ONC JIRA account in place and then be granted permission to the Project. Visit the CMS Pre-Rulemaking website to locate the Measures under Consideration User Guide and Quick Start Guide for more information.

Email MMSSupport@battelle.org for more information.

2018 Pre-Rulemaking calendar

April 3, 2018	Kickoff teleconference/webinar
April 5 & 12, 2018	JIRA Open Forum teleconferences/webinars
April 10, 2018	2018 Program Measurement Needs and Priorities Session
June 1, 2018	JIRA closes for MIPS-Quality measure submissions
June 15, 2018	JIRA closes for all other programs
December 1, 2018	2018 MUC List published

Upcoming Events

All times shown are Eastern Time zone

- Hospital IQR and VBP Programs: Reviewing Your Claims-Based Measures Hospital-Specific Reports webinar on April 17, 2018 at 2:00 PM
  - Register for the event here
- Hospital IQR Program CY 2018 Voluntary Reporting – Hybrid Hospital-Wide 30-Day Readmission Measure Overview webinar on April 18, 2018 at 2:00 PM
  - Register for the event here
- Website Walk-through: Tools and Resources for the Hospital Outpatient Quality Reporting (OQR) Program webinar on April 18, 2018 at 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM
  - Register for the event here
- Website Walk-through: Tools and Resources for the Ambulatory Surgical Center Quality Reporting (ASCQR) Program webinar on April 25, 2018 at 2:00 PM
  - Register for the event here

Upcoming Opportunities

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

- Development of the Draft *Transitions from Hospice Care, Followed by Death or Acute Care* Measure for the Hospice Quality Reporting Program
    - o The Call for Public Comment opened on March 27, 2018 and closes on April 25, 2018.
- Quality measures to satisfy the Improving Medicare Post-Acute Care Transformation Act of 2014 (IMPACT Act) domain of: Transfer of Health Information and Care Preferences When an Individual Transitions - Medication Profile Transferred to Provider / Medication Profile Transferred to Patient
    - o The Call for Public Comment opened on March 19, 2018 and closes on May 3, 2018.
- Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) III
    - o The Call for Public Comment period opens on April 10, 2018 and closes on May 4, 2018.
- Hospital Inpatient and Outpatient Process and Structural Measure Development and Maintenance. Task 1: Safe Use of Opioids – Concurrent Prescribing. Task 2: PC-02 Cesarean Birth
    - o The call for public comments opens on Monday, April 9, 2018, and closes on Wednesday, May 9, 2018.
- Quality Measure Development and Maintenance for CMS Programs Serving Medicare-Medicaid Enrollees and Medicaid-Only Enrollees: Improving or Maintaining Mental Health in Younger Dual Eligible Adults
    - o The Call for Public Comment period opens on April 13, 2018 and closes on May 10, 2018.
- Quality Measure Development and Maintenance for CMS Programs Serving Medicare-Medicaid Enrollees and Medicaid-Only Enrollees: Improving or Maintaining Physical Health in Younger Dual Eligible Adults
    - o The Call for Public Comment period opens on April 13, 2018 and closes on May 10, 2018.

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)](#)

- Patient-Reported Outcomes Following Elective Total Hip and/or Total Knee Arthroplasty: Hospital-Level Performance Measure(s)
    - o The TEP nomination period opened on March 21, 2018 and closes on April 20, 2018.

Please check the [CMS Quality Measures Call for TEP Web Page](#) for current TEP membership lists and meeting summaries.

New to the Listserv?

New to the listserv or missed a month? Find all our announcements as well as printer-friendly versions of past newsletters [here](#).

Please send comments and suggestions to MMSSupport@battelle.org