

eCQM 101 - Getting Started with Electronic Clinical Quality Measures for Quality Reporting Programs Introduction

March 2025

eCQM 101 Overview

- What is an electronic clinical quality measure (eCQM)?
- Where do I find eCQMs?
- What is included in an eCQM specification?

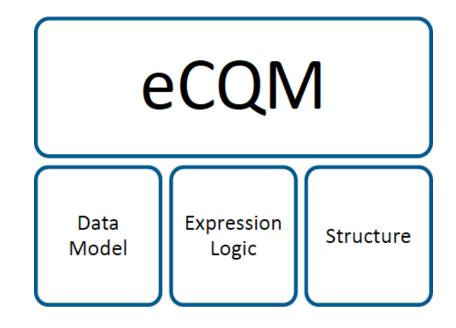
What is an eCQM?

eCQMs

- eCQMs use data electronically extracted from electronic health records and/or health information technology systems to measure the quality of health care provided.
- CMS uses eCQMs in a variety of quality reporting and incentive programs.
- Eligible Clinicians (ECs) and hospitals report inpatient and outpatient eCQMs to CMS.

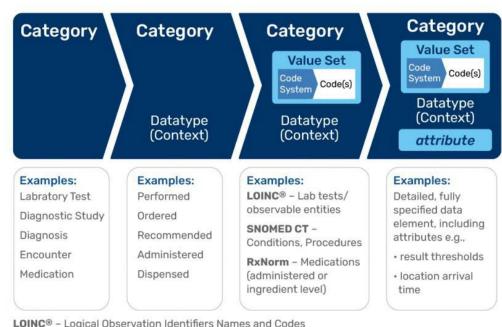
Building an eCQM

- Data Model What data to look for in the patient's medical record to capture and report
- Expression Logic How to calculate the results of the data captured to measure whether the 'right' care was provided
- Structure metadata, numerator, denominator, exclusions, exceptions



Data Model **Quality Data Model (QDM)**

- The QDM is an information model that defines relationships between patients and clinical concepts in a standardized format to enable electronic quality performance measurement.
- The QDM is the current structure for electronically representing quality measure concepts in eCQM development and reporting.
- QDM Data Element structure
- Find more information on the eCQI Resource Center QDM page.



eCQM Data Element

- QDM Category Consists of a single clinical concept identified by a value set. A category is the highest level of definition for a QDM element. QDM versions 5.5 and 5.6 contain 22 categories.
 - Examples: Medication, Procedure, Condition/Diagnosis/Problem, and Encounter
- QDM Datatype The context in which each category is used to describe a part of the clinical care process.
 - Examples: "Laboratory Test, Order", "Laboratory Test, Performed"
- QDM Attribute Provides specific details about a QDM datatype. QDM attributes represent metadata, or information about each QDM datatype that might be used in eCQM expressions to provide necessary details for calculation.
 - Example: "Laboratory Test, Performed: (result)"

Health Quality Measure Format (HQMF) and Expression Logic Clinical Quality Language (CQL)

- The HQMF is the basic electronic specification for the measure. It
 provides the metadata and population structure. The QDM provides the
 data model and CQL represents the logic used in the HQMF.
- The HQMF header includes descriptions of the measure populations, any stratifications, the measure steward, measure type, identifiers, rationale, scoring, and other details. The HQMF body includes the population criteria and the data criteria.
- CQL is a Health Level Seven International® (HL7®) humanreadable authoring language standard. CQL is the expression logic used with HQMF for eCQMs.
- Find more information on the eCQI Resource Center <u>HQMF page</u>.

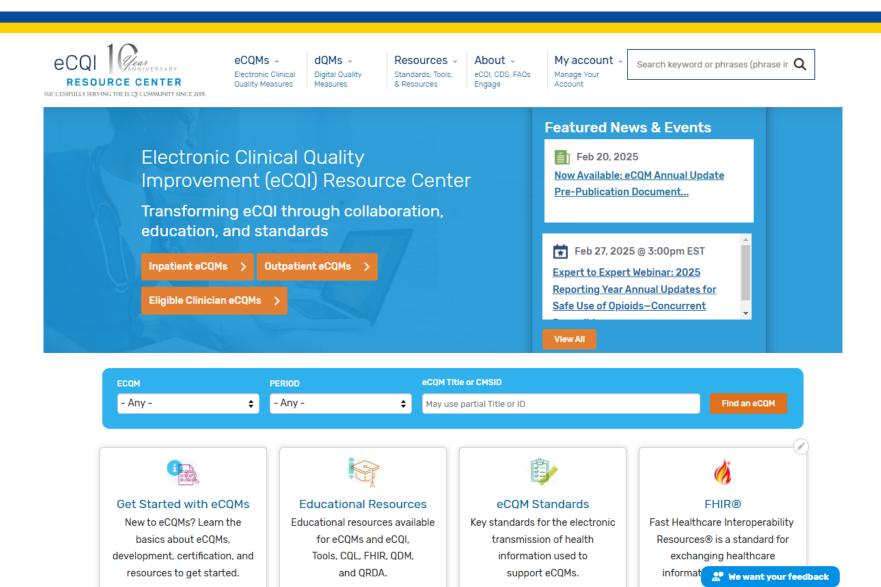
Benefits of CQL

- Expresses measure in easy, human-readable logic structured for processing a query electronically.
- Provides for sharing measure logic between measures.
- Harmonizes the standards used for eCQMs and Clinical Decision Support (CDS).
- Simplifies calculation engine implementation.
- Can be used with multiple information data models, e.g., QDM, Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources® (FHIR®).
- Find more information on the eCQI Resource Center <u>CQL</u> <u>page</u>.

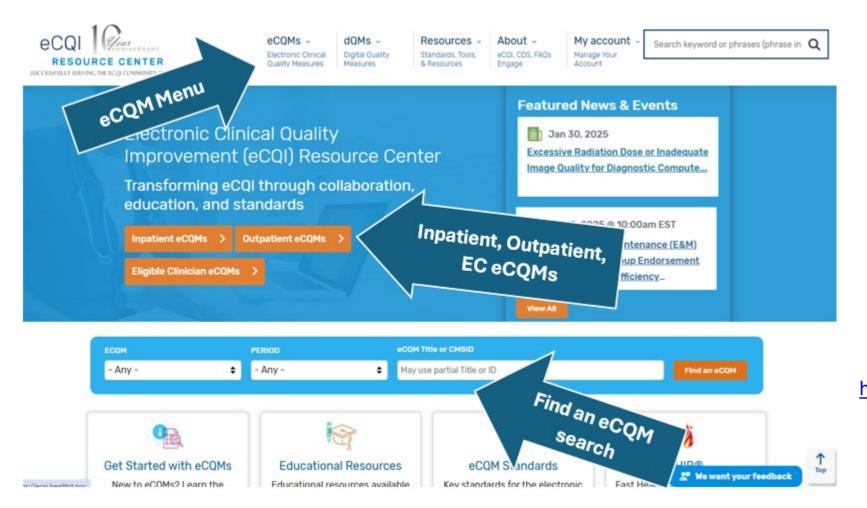
Where do I find eCQMs?

eCQI Resource Center

https://ecqi.healthit.gov/

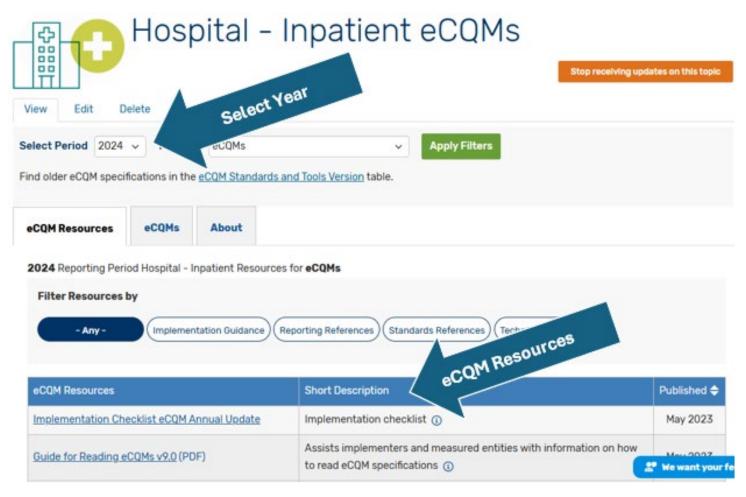


Different ways to get to eCQMs

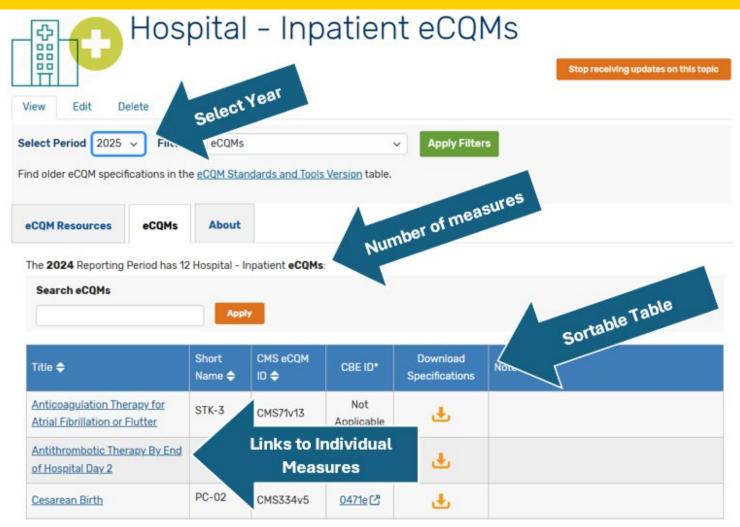


https://ecqi.healthit.gov/

Example: Finding EH/CAH eCQM Resources

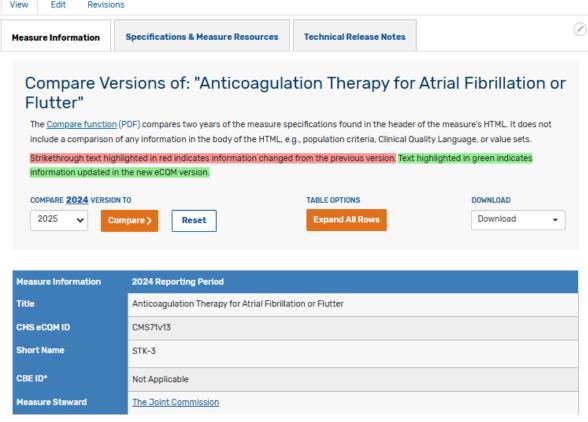


Example: Finding EH/CAH eCQMs



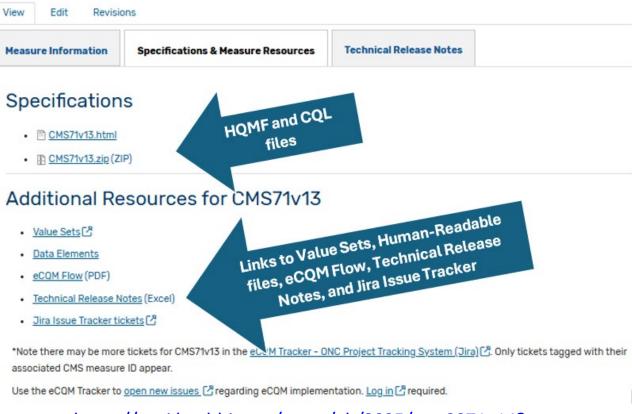
Example: Finding EH/CAH Individual eCQM Specifications – General Information

Anticoagulation Therapy for Atrial Fibrillation or Flutter



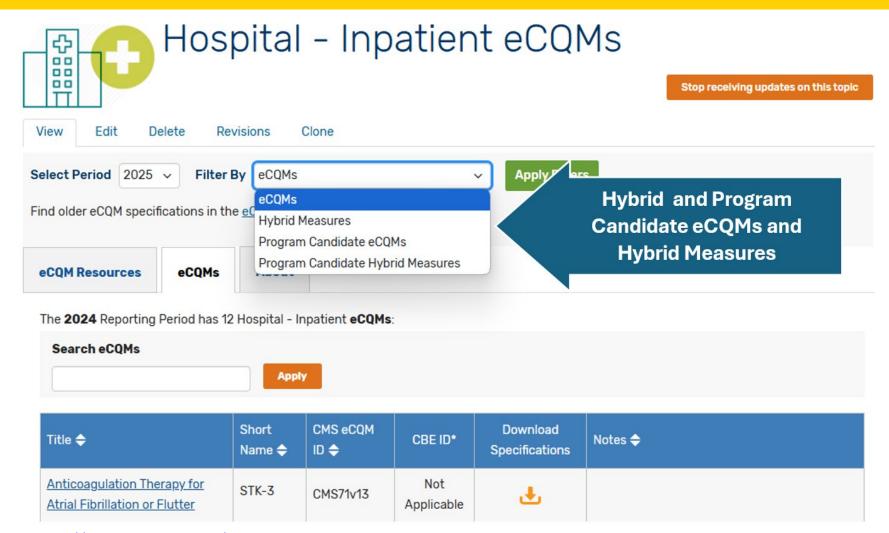
Example: Finding EH/CAH Individual eCQM Specifications, Data Element Repository and Value Set Links

Anticoagulation Therapy for Atrial Fibrillation or Flutter



https://ecqi.healthit.gov/ecqm/eh/2025/cms0071v14?qt-tabs measure=specifications-and-data-elements

Hybrid Measures In Use and Pre-Rulemaking



Finding Eligible Clinician (EC) eCQMs



Finding EC eCQMs (cont.)



eCQM Data Element Repository (DERep)

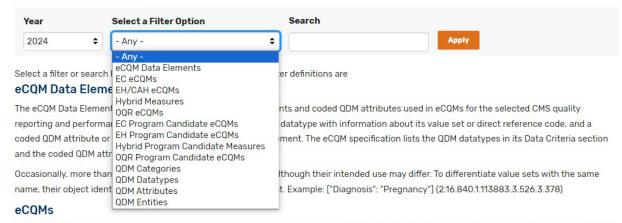
Measure Collaboration (MC) Workspace

About eCQM Concepts eCQM Testing Opportunities eCQM Data Element Repository

Electronic Clinical Quality Measure (eCQM) Data Element Repository (DERep)

The eCQM DERep provides clarification, definitions, and clinical focus for the data elements associated with eCQMs used in CMS quality reporting and incentive programs. Users can filter information by data element, eCQM, Quality Data Model (QDM) attribute, QDM category, QDM datatype, or QDM entities. See the MC Workspace User Guide (PDF) to learn more about how to use the MC Workspace eCQM DERep Module.

Information within the eCQM DERep is derived from the eCQM specifications, QDM, and the Value Set Authority Center (VSAC). Each eCQM data element includes information about the value set or the direct reference code (DRC), the QDM datatype, and the QDM attribute(s) used by that data element. The QDM information displayed for an eCQM reflects the version used in the development of the eCQM for a specific performance/reporting period.

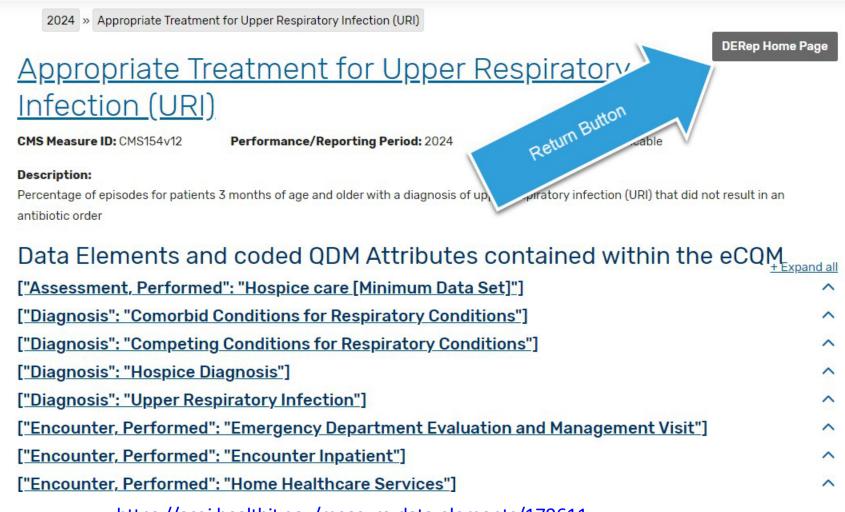


The eCQMs filter currently provides a list of the Eligible Hospital/Critical Access Hospital, Eligible Clinician, Outpatient Quality Reporting, and Hybrid measures used in CMS quality reporting programs. The individual eCQM pages provide the eCQM rationale and a list of all the eCQM data elements associated with the eCQM and information about each data element.

nttps://ecqi.neaitnit.gov/mc-workspace-2/data-eiement-repository

The eCQM DERep provides all the data elements associated with published and tested eCQMs for use in CMS quality reporting programs including definitions and clinical focus for each data element.

Example: Individual eCQM - DERep



Data Element and Details

2024 » Appropriate Treatment for Upper Respiratory Infection (URI) » Anti-depressant Medication Management »

["Diagnosis": "Hospice Diagnosis"] » ["Assessment. Performed": "Hospice care [Minimum Data Set]"] » ["Diagnosis": "Major Depression"]

DERep Home Page

["Diagnosis": "Major Depression"]

eCQM Data Element

Performance/Reporting Period: 2024 Value Set Description from VSAC

CLINICAL FOCUS: The purpose of this value set is to represent concepts for a diagnosis of major depression.

DATA ELEMENT SCOPE: This value set may use a model element related to Diagnosis.

INCLUSION CRITERIA: Includes concepts that represent a diagnosis of major depression including mild, moderate, and severe, with or without psychotic features. Includes major depression during pregnancy and major depression in partial remission.

EXCLUSION CRITERIA: Excludes concepts that represent a diagnosis of major depression in remission or depression not specified as 'major depression.'

Constrained to codes in the Major Depression value set (2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1003.105.12.1007)

Data Elements - Used By

Get to the same data element specifics including "eCQMs using this data element" by going directly to the data element.

["Diagnosis": "Upper Respiratory Infection"]

eCQM Data Element

Performance/Reporting Period: 2024 Value Set Description from VSAC

CLINICAL FOCUS: The purpose of this value set is to represent concepts for a diagnosis of an acute upper respiratory infection.

DATA ELEMENT SCOPE: This value set may use a model element related to Diagnosis.

INCLUSION CRITERIA: Includes concepts that represent a diagnosis of an acute upper respiratory infection.

EXCLUSION CRITERIA: No exclusions.

Constrained to codes in the Upper Respiratory Infection value set (2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1003.102.12.1022)

QDM Datatype and Definition

"Diagnosis"

Data elements that meet criteria using this datatype should document the Condition/Diagnosis/Problem and its corresponding value set. The *onset dateTime* corresponds to the implicit start dateTime of the datatype and the *abatement dateTime* corresponds to the implicit stop dateTime of the datatype. If the *abatement dateTime* is not present, then the diagnosis is considered to still be active. When this datatype is used with timing relationships, the criterion is looking for an active diagnosis for the time frame indicated by the timing relationships.

Timing: The prevalencePeriod references the time from the onset date to the

eCQMs using this data element:

CMS154v12 - Appropriate Treatment for Upper Respiratory Infection (URI)

eCQMs using this data element

What is included within an eCQM specification?

eCQM Components

- Human-readable HyperText Markup Language (HTML) file
- Machine readable
 - HQMF XML file
 - The header identifies and classifies the document and provides important metadata about the measure
 - The body contains eCQM sections (e.g., definitions, population criteria, supplemental data elements)
 - Shared CQL Libraries (.cql, .xml, .json)
 - CQL file provides the formal description of the computable content in the measure and organized into libraries for reusing or sharing between measures and other artifacts
 - Expression Logical Model (ELM) XML is the machine-readable representation of the eCQM's logic in XML.
 - ELM JavaScript Object Notation (JSON) file is the ELM file in JavaScript Notation, as opposed to XML.

Note: Value sets and direct reference codes in the eCQM specifications are found in the <u>Value Set Authority Center</u> (VSAC) and require a free Unified Medical Language System (UMLS) <u>license</u> to access.

Human Readable: Header Background, Owner, Endorsement...

eCQM Title	Appropriate Treatment for Upper Respiratory Infection (URI)			
eCQM Identifier (Measure Authoring Tool)	154	eCQM Version Number	12.0.000	
NQF Number	Not Applicable	GUID	e455fac0-f2cb-4074-a351-1e68a90fb7	
Measurement Period	January 1, 20XX through December 31, 20X			
Measure Steward	National Committee for Quality Assurance		CONTRACTOR AND ADDRESS OF THE	
Measure Developer	National Committee for Quality Assurance	The measure header in t	the human readable file includes:	
Endorsed By	None	Measure Developer		
Description	Percentage of episodes for patients 3 month that did not result in an antibiotic order	Measure Steward Description of the Measure		
Copyright	apply to government use. LOINC(R) copyright 2004-2022 Regenstrief Ir	 Description of the Measure Rationale and Evidence for the Measure Rationale and Evidence for the Measure Rationale and Evidence for the Measure Relevant Clinical Guidelines Copyright in the Measure. The Measure into a proporation of the Measure into a proporation of the Measure into a proporation of NCQA. Commercial use is defining incorporation of the Measure into a proporation of NCQA. (C) 2012-2022 National incorporation of NCQA. (C) 2012-2022 National incorporation		

March 2025

Human Readable: Body-Population Criteria

Population Criteria

▲ Initial Population

"Encounter with Upper Respiratory Infection" EncounterWithURI where AgeInMonthsAt(date from start of "Measurement Period")>= 3 return EncounterWithURI

▲ Denominator

▲ Numerator

"Initial Population"

■ Denominator Exclusions

"Encounters and Assessments with Hospice Patient" union "Encounter with Comorbid Condition for Upper F union "Encounter with Upper Respiratory Infection and union "Encounter with Competing Diagnosis for Upper Respiratory Infection"

Think of the measure logic as an equation - it relates different pieces of information together and calculates a measure result.

"Encounter with Upper Respiratory Infection" EncounterWithURI without ["Medication, Order": "Antibiotic Medications for Upper Respiratory Infection"] OrderedAntibiotic such that OrderedAntibiotic.authorDatetime 3 days or less on or after start of EncounterWithURI.relevantPeriod return EncounterWithURI

▲ Numerator Exclusions

None

▲ Denominator Exceptions

None

Human Readable: Body- Definitions Snippet

Definitions

▲ Denominator

"Initial Population"

▲ Denominator Exclusions

"Encounters and Assessments with Hospice Patient"
union "Encounter with Comorbid Condition for Upper Respiratory Infection Prior"
union "Encounter with Upper Respiratory Infection and Antibiotics Active In 30 Days Prior to the Episode Date"
union "Encounter with Competing Diagnosis for Upper Respiratory Infection"

▲ Encounter with Comorbid Condition for Upper Respiratory Infection Prior

```
( "Encounter with Upper Respiratory Infection" EncounterWithURI
with ["Diagnosis": "Comorbid Conditions for Respiratory Conditions"] ComorbidCondition
such that start of ComorbidCondition.prevalencePeriod in day of Interval[start of EncounterWithURI.relevantPeriod - 1 year, start
return EncounterWithURI
)
```

▲ Encounter with Competing Diagnosis for Upper Respiratory Infection

```
( "Encounter with Upper Respiratory Infection" EncounterWithURI
with ["Diagnosis": "Competing Conditions for Respiratory Conditions"] CompetingCondition
such that CompetingCondition.prevalencePeriod starts 3 days or less on or after day of start of EncounterWithURI.relevantPeriod
return EncounterWithURI
)
```

▲ Encounter with Upper Respiratory Infection

```
from
"Qualifying Encounters" QualifyingEncounters,
["Diagnosis": "Upper Respiratory Infection"] URI
where URI.prevalencePeriod starts during day of QualifyingEncounters.relevantPeriod
or URI.prevalencePeriod overlaps before QualifyingEncounters.relevantPeriod
return QualifyingEncounters
```

Human Readable: Body- Functions and Terminology

Functions

■ Global.NormalizeInterval(pointInTime DateTime, period Interval<DateTime>)

if pointInTime is not null then Interval[pointInTime, pointInTime] else if period is not null then period else null as Interval<DateTime>

Terminology

- code "Discharge to healthcare facility for hospice care (procedure)" ("SNOMEDCT Code (428371000124100)")
- code "Discharge to home for hospice care (procedure)" ("SNOMEDCT Code (428361000124107)")
- code "Hospice care [Minimum Data Set]" ("LOINC Code (45755-6)")
- code "Unlisted preventive medicine service" ("CPT Code (99429)")
- code "Yes (qualifier value)" ("SNOMEDCT Code (373066001)")
- valueset "Antibiotic Medications for Upper Respiratory Infection" (2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1003.1190)
- valueset "Comorbid Conditions for Respiratory Conditions" (2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1003.102.12.1025)
- valueset "Competing Conditions for Respiratory Conditions" (2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1003.102.12.1017)
- valueset "Emergency Department Evaluation and Management Visit" (2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1003.101.12.1010)
- valueset "Encounter Inpatient" (2.16.840.1.113883.3.666.5.307)
- valueset "Ethnicity" (2.16.840.1.114222.4.11.837)
- valueset "Home Healthcare Services" (2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1003.101.12.1016)
- valueset "Hospice Care Ambulatory" (2.16.840.1.113883.3.526.3.1584)
- valueset "Hospice Diagnosis" (2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1003.1165)
- valueset "Hospice Encounter" (2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1003.1003)
- valueset "Initial Hospital Observation Care" (2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1003.101.12.1002)
- valueset "Medical Disability Exam" (2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1003.101.12.1073)
- valueset "Observation" (2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1003.101.12.1086)
- valueset "Office Visit" (2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1003.101.12.1001)
- valueset "ONC Administrative Sex" (2.16.840.1.113762.1.4.1)
- valueset "Online Assessments" (2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1003.101.12.1089)
- valueset "Outpatient Consultation" (2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1003.101.12.1008)
- valueset "Payer" (2.16.840.1.114222.4.11.3591)
- valueset "Preventive Care Services Established Office Visit, 18 and Up" (2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1003.101.12.1025)
- valueset "Preventive Care Services Group Counseling" (2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1003.101.12.1027)
- valueset "Preventive Care Services Individual Counseling" (2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1003.101.12.1026)
- valueset "Preventive Care Services Initial Office Visit, 18 and Up" (2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1003.101.12.1023)
- valueset "Preventive Care Services, Initial Office Visit, 0 to 17" (2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1003.101.12.1022)
- valueset "Preventive Care, Established Office Visit, 0 to 17" (2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1003.101.12.1024)
- valueset "Race" (2.16.840.1.114222.4.11.836)
- valueset "Telephone Visits" (2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1003.101.12.1080)
- valueset "Upper Respiratory Infection" (2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1003.102.12.1022)

Human Readable: Body- Data Criteria

Data Criteria (QDM Data Elements)

- "Assessment, Performed: Hospice care [Minimum Data Set]" using "Hospice care [Minimum Data Set] (LOINC Code 45755-6)"
- "Diagnosis: Comorbid Conditions for Respiratory Conditions" using "Comorbid Conditions for Respiratory Conditions (2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1003.102.12.1025)"
- "Diagnosis: Competing Conditions for Respiratory Conditions" using "Competing Conditions for Respiratory Conditions (2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1003.102.12.1017)"
- "Diagnosis: Hospice Diagnosis" using "Hospice Diagnosis (2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1003.1165)"
- "Diagnosis: Upper Respiratory Infection" using "Upper Respiratory Infection (2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1003.102.12.1022)"
- "Encounter, Performed: Emergency Department Evaluation and Management Visit" using "Emergency Department Evaluation and Management Visit (2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1003.101.12.1010)"
- "Encounter, Performed: Encounter Inpatient" using "Encounter Inpatient (2.16.840.1.113883.3.666.5.307)"
- "Encounter, Performed: Home Healthcare Services" using "Home Healthcare Services (2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1003.101.12.1016)"
- "Encounter, Performed: Hospice Encounter" using "Hospice Encounter (2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1003.1003)"
- "Encounter, Performed: Initial Hospital Observation Care" using "Initial Hospital Observation Care (2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1003.101.12.1002)"
- "Encounter, Performed: Medical Disability Exam" using "Medical Disability Exam (2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1003.101.12.1073)"
- "Encounter, Performed: Observation" using "Observation (2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1003.101.12.1086)"
- "Encounter, Performed: Office Visit" using "Office Visit (2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1003.101.12.1001)"
- "Encounter, Performed: Online Assessments" using "Online Assessments (2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1003.101.12.1089)"
- "Encounter, Performed: Outpatient Consultation" using "Outpatient Consultation (2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1003.101.12.1008)"
- "Encounter, Performed: Preventive Care Services Established Office Visit, 18 and Up" using "Preventive Care Services Established Office Visit, 18 and Up (2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1003.101.12.1025)"
- "Encounter, Performed: Preventive Care Services Group Counseling" using "Preventive Care Services Group Counseling (2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1003.101.12.1027)"

Human Readable: Body- Supplemental Data Elements

Supplemental Data Elements

```
    SDE Ethnicity
        ["Patient Characteristic Ethnicity": "Ethnicity"]
    SDE Payer
        ["Patient Characteristic Payer": "Payer"]
    SDE Race
        ["Patient Characteristic Race": "Race"]
    SDE Sex
        ["Patient Characteristic Sex": "ONC Administrative Sex"]
```

Machine Readable XML: Measure Header and Logic - Snippet

```
▼<QualityMeasureDocument xmlns="urn:hl7-org:v3" xmlns:cql-ext="urn:hhs-cql:hqmf-n1-extensions:v1"
xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance">
  <!--
              ***********************
              Measure Details Section
              ************************
  <typeId extension="POOM HD000001UV02" root="2.16.840.1.113883.1.3"/>
 ▼ <templateId>
    <item extension="2021-02-01" root="2.16.840.1.113883.10.20.28.1.2"/>
  </templateId>
  <id root="2c928084-8389-524e-0183-c8d7a6700f02"/>
 v<code code="57024-2" codeSystem="2.16.840.1.113883.6.1">
    <displayName value="Health Quality Measure Document"/>
  </code>
  <title value="Appropriate Treatment for Upper Respiratory Infection (URI)"/>
  <text value="Percentage of episodes for patients 3 months of age and older with</pre>
  not result in an antibiotic order"/>
  <statusCode code="COMPLETED"/>
  <setId root="e455fac0-f2cb-4074-a351-1e68a90fb7cf"/>
  <versionNumber value="12.0.000"/>
 ▼ <author>
   ▼<responsibleParty classCode="ASSIGNED">
    ▼<representedResponsibleOrganization classCode="ORG" determinerCode="INSTANCE
      ▼<id>>
         <item root="2.16.840.1.113883.3.464"/>
       </id>
      ▼<name>
        ▼<item>
           <part value="National Committee for Quality Assurance"/>
         </item>
       </name>
      </representedResponsibleOrganization>
    </responsibleParty>
  </author>
```

The HQMF is an xml-based standard that shows the measure content, both machine-readable logic and header, in a way that a machine can parse the content into sections and perform calculations.

While it does take some investment to create a tool that "reads" the HQMF, it can be used to import the measure and generate the measure results automatically.

Companion eCQM 101 Presentations

- Find additional eCQM presentations on the <u>eCQM Resources</u> page of the eCQI Resource Center
- Email the <u>eCQI Resource Center</u> to ask questions or provide website feedback

Acronyms

Acronym	Definition	
CAH	Critical Access Hospital	
CDS	Clinical Decision Support	
CQL	Clinical Quality Language	
DERep	Data Element Repository	
eCQM	Electronic Clinical Quality Measure	
EH	Eligible Hospital	
ELM	Expression Logical Model	
FHIR	Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources	
HL7	Health Level Seven International	
HQMF	Health Quality Reporting Format	
HTML	Hyper Text Markup Language	
JSON	JavaScript Object Notation	
LOINC	Logical Observation Identifiers, Names, and Codes	
QDM	Quality Data Model	
UMLS	Unified Medical Language System	
VSAC	Value Set Authority Center	
XML	eXtensible Markup Language	