eCQM Implementation Checklist

April 17, 2017

Shanna Hartman
CMS Division of Electronic and Clinician Quality
CMS/CCSQ/QMVIG

Edna Boone
CCSQ Contractor
eCQM Implementation Checklist Location

eCQM Electronic Specifications

These electronic specifications are fully developed and represent the electronic Clinical Quality Measures (eCQMs) for the Inpatient hospital quality reporting programs. This page will be updated if changes are made to the final measure requirements.

Each year, CMS makes updates to the electronic specifications of the Clinical Quality Measures approved for submission in CMS programs. CMS encourages the implementation and use of the updates because they include new codes, logic corrections and clarifications.

For those attesting to eCQMs to demonstrate meaningful use for the EHR Incentive Programs: CMS will accept the most recent version of the eCQMs (which would be the electronic specifications of the CQMs published by CMS in 2016) through attestation as finalized in the 2015 EHR Incentive Programs final rule (80 FR 62893). For eReporting of eCQMs to demonstrate meaningful use or for Quality Reporting Programs: An eligible hospital or critical care hospital must use the most current version of the eCQMs identified below. Information on Reporting Options is available on here.

The vocabulary value sets used by eCQMs consist of codes and terms drawn from standard vocabularies such as NCI-THES, SNOMED-CT, C32, OMOP, and others as appropriate.
eCQM Implementation Checklist

Pre-Check

1. Signup for a Unified Medical Language System (UMLS) account
2. Signup for a JIRA account
3. Signup for eCQM page change notifications on the eCQI Resource Center
4. Review the code versions used in the Annual Update
5. Review the standards, tools, and documents used in the Annual Update

Checklist

1. Access the appropriate eCQM Annual Update
2. Secure detailed information about each measure
3. Download value sets
Using the Checklist

Pre-Check

1. Signup for a Unified Medical Language System (UMLS) account
   
   This account will allow you to access the National Library of Medicine's (NLM) Value Set Authority Center (VSAC) to view all codes included in eCQM value sets.

2. Signup for a JIRA account
   
   This account allows you to submit issues regarding eCQM implementation and receive feedback. Key topic areas include the CQM Issue Tracker, Quality Data Model (QDM) Issue Tracker, Quality Reporting Document Architecture (QRDA) Issue Tracker, Bonnie Issue Tracker and Cypress Issue Tracker. Review JIRA instructions.

3. Signup for eCQM page change notifications on the eCQI Resource Center

4. Review the code versions used in the Annual Update

5. Review the standards, tools, and documents used in the Annual Update
Suggested Pre-Check Items

Pre-Check

- 1) Signup for a Unified Medical Language System (UMLS) account
- 2) Signup for a JIRA account
- 3) Signup for eCQM page change notifications on the eCQI Resource Center
- 4) Review the code versions used in the Annual Update
- 5) Review the standards, tools, and documents used in the Annual Update
Suggested Checklist Items

Checklist

› 1) Access the appropriate eCQM Annual Update

› 2) Secure detailed information about each measure

› 3) Download value sets

› 4) Prepare to implement the updates by understanding changes to the eCQM

› 5) Prepare to report the updated eCQMs

› 6) Reach out for help
Electronic Clinical Quality Measure (eCQM) Annual Update
Implementation Checklist May 2017

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) requires eligible Providers, Eligible Clinicians, Eligible Hospital (EH) or Critical Access Hospital (CAH) to use the most current version of the eCQMs for quality reporting purposes.

This checklist assumes that a healthcare practice/organization has determined which measures to report on. It provides necessary technical steps, health information technology (IT) developers, implementers and healthcare organizations must take to update their software and processes with the eCQM Annual Update for this upcoming reporting and performance periods. The 2017 eCQM Annual Update should be applied to your system for use in electronic quality reporting.

Pre-Check
1. Create a certified Medline Plus (MMP) account. This account will allow you to access the National Library of Medicine’s (NLM) Value Set Authority Center (VSAC) to review all codes included in eCQM value sets.
2. Sign up for a CMS account. This account allows you to submit issues regarding eCQM implementation and review feedback. Key areas include such as the CQM Issue Tracker, Quality Data Model (QDM) Issue Tracker, Quality Reporting Document Architecture (QRDA) Issue Tracker, Bonnie Issue Tracker and Express Issue Tracker. Review FAQ instructions.

3. Sign up for eCQM maps change notifications on the eCQM Resource Center. Signing up for an eCQM Resource Center notification will allow you to be notified of any changes to the eCQM maps. This will ensure that your system is updated with the latest changes.

4. Review the code versions used in the Annual Update (for example, LICHCAO 2014-OH) by reviewing the eCQM prohibition documents and the release notes published by the NLM or the VSAC.

5. Work with your IT department and health IT vendor to ensure your systems have been updated to the latest code versions.

6. Some vendors may require that you update your code systems. These code updates must be synchronized with the current code system version and will be considered active in one of the prior code system versions as stated on the title.

7. Review the eCQM Prohibition Document and Standards and Specifications used in the Annual Update.

8. Work with your health IT vendor to ensure your systems are using updated technical standards and testing tools.

Checklist
1. Access the appropriate eCQM Annual Update: Eligible Professionals/Eligible Clinicians or Eligible Hospitals:
   a. Review the updated codes in CMS quality programs for the current reporting performance period in the available tables on the Eligible Hospital (EH) or Eligible Professional (Eligible Clinician) website.
   b. Download the eCQM Annual Update .zip file and uncompress the files on the EH or Eligible Professional (Eligible Clinician) website.

2. Secure detailed information about each measure:
   a. Click into an eCQM on the online tools to view detailed human-readable information on the measure.
   b. Download and open .xml files for the Individual CQM organization.
   c. Open the .xml file in a plain text editor or HTML editor that contains the measure specification description.

May 2017

1
Checklist Locations

» Eligible Hospital Measure Page
  • https://ecqi.healthit.gov/eh

» Eligible Professional and Eligible Clinician Measure Page
  • https://ecqi.healthit.gov/ep

» Direct URL
  • https://ecqi.healthit.gov/ecqm-implementation-checklist
Feedback

» Send feedback and suggestions regarding the eCQM Implementation Checklist to ecqi-resource-center@hhs.gov