



Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

**Electronic Clinical Quality Measures (eCQMs)
Annual Update Pre-Publication Document for the
2026 Reporting/Performance Period**

February 2025



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This document provides the versions of the standards and code systems used within the updated eCQMs for potential use in the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) programs for the 2026 reporting/performance period. It is designed to prepare health information technology (IT)/electronic health record (EHR) developers, eligible clinicians, and hospitals for 2026 reporting/performance through the transparent pre-release of the expected standards and code system versions.

Where and when to obtain updated eCQMs for the 2026 reporting/performance period:

The eCQM annual update for the 2026 reporting/performance period will be available Spring 2025. Please sign up for and follow the [Electronic Clinical Quality Improvement \(eCQI\) Resource Center](#) and [CMS](#) listservs to receive updates and announcements on the eCQM specifications' publication and related content. The updated eCQMs will be posted on the [Eligible Clinician eCQMs](#), [Hospital – Inpatient eCQMs](#), and [Hospital – Outpatient eCQMs](#) pages of the eCQI Resource Center.

Standards related to the updated eCQM specifications for the 2026 reporting/performance period:

- [HQMF R1 Normative](#) – HL7 Version 3 Standard: Representation of the Health Quality Measure Format (HQMF) (eMeasure) Release 1
- [HL7 V3 CQL-based HQMF Implementation Guide \(IG\) R1 Standard for Trial Use \(STU\) 4.1](#) – HL7 Version 3 Implementation Guide: Clinical Quality Language (CQL)-based HQMF, Release 1, STU 4.1 - US Realm
- [CQL R1 Mixed Normative/Trial-Use \(CQL 1.5\)](#) – CQL Specification v1.5.2, Release 1 Mixed Normative/Trial-Use and the derivative CQL-to-ELM translator
- [QRDA I R1 STU 5.3 with errata](#) – Quality Reporting Document Architecture (QRDA) - Category I Release 1, STU Release 5.3 (December 2022 errata)
- [QRDA III R1 Normative](#) – QRDA - Category III Release 1 (September 2021)
- [QDM v5.6](#) – Quality Data Model (QDM) Version 5.6
- [CMS QRDA IGs](#) – CMS QRDA IGs (CMS QRDA I IG for Hospital Quality Reporting will be released in Spring 2025 for the 2026 reporting period. CMS QRDA III IG for Eligible Clinicians will be released in Summer 2025, and an updated version will be

released in Fall 2025 after publication of the Physician Fee Schedule Final Rule for the 2026 performance period.)

Code system versions used in the eCQM specifications for the 2026 reporting/performance period:

The following code systems will be used:

- **ActCode 9.0.0**
- **AdministrativeGender 3.0.0** – Administrative Gender Value Set
- **CDCREC 1.2** – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Race and Ethnicity Code Set Version
- **CDT 2023** – Current Dental Terminology
- **CPT 2025** – Current Procedural Terminology
- **CVX 2024-12-16** – Clinical Vaccine Formulation
- **DataAbsentReason 1.0.0** – Data Absent Reason Value Set
- **HCPCS 2025** – Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System
- **HSLOC 2022** – NHSN Healthcare Service Location Codes
- **ICD-10-CM 2025** – International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision, Clinical Modification
- **ICD-10-PCS 2025** – International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision, Procedure Coding System
- **LOINC 2.78** – Logical Observation Identifiers Names and Codes
- **PresentOnAdmission 2021** – Present on Admission
- **RxNorm 2025-01** – A normalized naming system for generic and branded drugs
- **SNOMED CT US Edition 2024-09** – A comprehensive and precise health terminology for electronic exchange of clinical health information
- **SOP 9.2** – Source of Payment

The [Value Set Authority Center](#) will post a final list of code systems and value sets used within the eCQM specifications for the 2026 reporting/performance period in Spring 2025.

Note: CMS may elect to update the eCQM specifications and supporting materials during reporting/performance periods due to code system changes, clinical guidelines, standards enhancements, etc. Visit the [eCQI Resource Center](#) for the most current information on code system and standards versions. Measures will not be eligible for the 2026 reporting/performance period unless and until they are proposed and finalized through notice-and-comment rulemaking for each applicable program.

Please submit questions or comments regarding the standards and/or code system versions used in the upcoming eCQM updates for the 2026 reporting/performance period to the [eCQM Issue Tracker](#).