

October 2020 CMS Quality Programs Bi-Monthly Forum

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2021 QRDA I and III Implementation Guides Updates and Guidance for Representing Telehealth Encounters in QRDA I Format for Electronic Clinical Quality Measures

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2021 CMS QRDA I Implementation Guide, Schematron, and Sample File for Hospital Quality Reporting

- In May 2020, CMS published the [2021 CMS QRDA Category I Implementation Guide, Schematron, and Sample File for Hospital Quality Reporting \(HQR\)](#)
- The 2021 CMS QRDA I Implementation Guide outlines requirements for eligible hospitals and CAHs to report eCQMs for CY 2021 reporting period for the:
 - Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting Program
 - Medicare and Medicaid Promoting Interoperability Programs for eligible hospitals and CAHs

2021 CMS QRDA I Implementation Guide

- The 2021 CMS QRDA I Implementation Guide contains these high-level changes compared with the 2020 CMS QRDA I Implementation Guide:
 - Alignment with Health Level Seven International® (HL7) Clinical Document Architecture (CDA®) R2 Implementation Guide: QRDA Category I (QRDA I), Release 1, Standard for Trial Use (STU) Release 5.2 with errata, which supports Quality Data Model (QDM) v5.5
 - Guidance for submitting the voluntary Hybrid Hospital-Wide Readmission measure for the July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 measurement period

2021 CMS QRDA I Schematron and Sample File

- The 2021 CMS QRDA I Schematron updates include:
 - QRDA Category I Report – CMS (V7): Updated extension to "2020-02-01" and updated to contain Patient Data Section QDM – CMS (V7)
 - Patient Data Section QDM – CMS (V7): Updated extension to "2020-02-01"
 - Incorporated Schematron updates from the base HL7 QRDA I STU Release 5.2 with errata Schematron
- Changes to the 2021 CMS QRDA I Sample Files:
 - Updated according to the 2021 Implementation Guide updates

2021 CMS QRDA III Implementation Guide, Schematron, and Sample Files for Eligible Clinicians and Eligible Professionals Programs

- In July 2020, CMS published the [2021 QRDA Category III Implementation Guide, Schematron, and Sample Files for Eligible Clinicians and Eligible Professionals Programs](#)
- The 2021 CMS QRDA III Implementation Guide outlines requirements for eligible clinicians and eligible professionals to report eCQMs, improvement activities, and promoting interoperability measures for CY 2021 performance period for these programs:
 - Quality Payment Program: Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) and Advanced Alternative Payment Models (APMs)
 - Comprehensive Primary Care Plus (CPC+)
 - Primary Care First (PCF)
 - Medicaid Promoting Interoperability Program

2021 CMS QRDA III Implementation Guide

- The 2021 CMS QRDA III Implementation Guide contains these high-level changes as compared with the 2020 CMS QRDA III Implementation Guide:
 - Clarification of CPC+ QRDA III requirements in section 4.1
 - Preliminary QRDA III requirements for PCF have been defined
 - Updated eCQM universally unique identifiers (UUIDs) for the 2021 performance period

Note: A subsequent publication will follow the publication of the 2021 Physician Fee Schedule Final Rule to update MIPS eCQM, Promoting Interoperability measures, and Improvement Activities identifiers in Section 7 of this Implementation Guide

2021 CMS QRDA III Schematron and Sample File

- Changes to the 2021 CMS QRDA III Schematron:
 - Addition of conformance statements to support PCF requirements
 - QRDA Category III Report – CMS (V5): Updated extension to "2020-05-01"
- Changes to the 2021 CMS QRDA III Sample Files:
 - Addition of a PCF QRDA III sample file

Guidance for Representing Telehealth Encounters in QRDA I Format for Electronic Clinical Quality Measures

- CMS has published additional guidance for using the QRDA I format to represent telehealth encounters for the eligible professional and eligible clinician eCQMs used in CMS quality reporting programs for the 2020 and 2021 performance periods
- Represent telehealth encounters in QRDA I format by using the *Qualifier* attribute:
 - To represent “telehealth-eligible” Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) and Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes for eCQMs in QRDA I, submitters should use the optional qualifier attribute of the encounter code element to send the telehealth modifier code in addition to the primary “telehealth-eligible” CPT or HCPCS encounter code from the eCQM-specified value sets
 - The qualifier attribute name is set to a fixed code virtual “VR” selected from the HL7 ActCode code system. The applicable telehealth modifier, such as the modifier 95, will be in qualifier attribute value.

Guidance for Representing Telehealth Encounters in QRDA I Format for Electronic Clinical Quality Measures

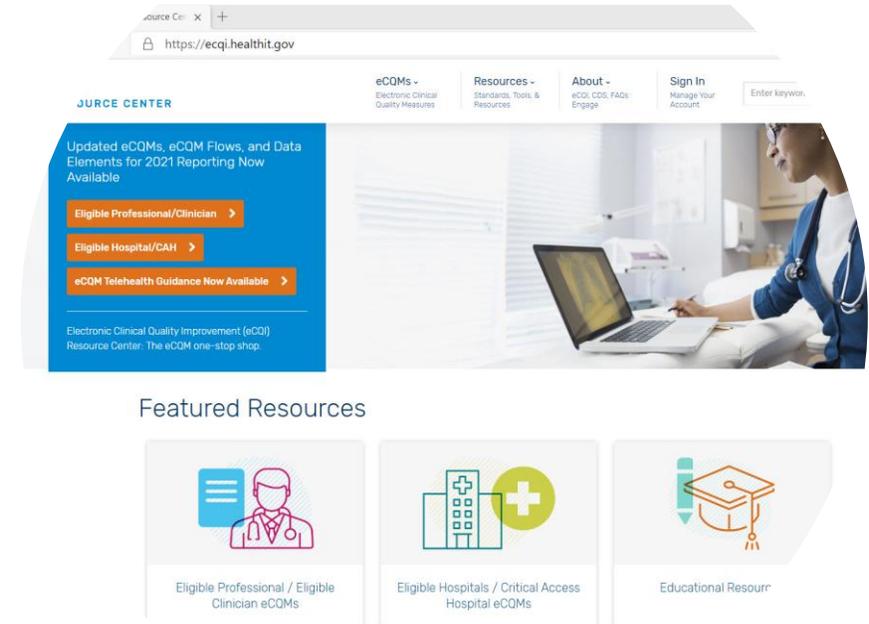
- The updated guidance is available on the Electronic Clinical Quality Improvement (eCQI) Resource Center
 - **2020 Quality Reporting** - [Updated Telehealth Guidance for eCQMs](#) on the [Eligible Professionals and Eligible Clinicians](#) page for the 2020 Performance Period
 - **2021 Quality Reporting** - [Updated Telehealth Guidance for eCQMs](#) on the [Eligible Professionals and Eligible Clinicians](#) page for the 2021 Performance Period
- The [Cypress Validation Utility + Calculation Check](#) is being updated to follow this guidance to filter out telehealth encounters when calculating eCQMs not eligible for telehealth encounters, which are listed in Table 2 referenced in the [2020](#) and [2021](#) reporting guidance. This update will be made available in Cypress scheduled for release in Fall 2020.

Additional QRDA-Related Resources

- To find out more about QRDA and eCQMs, visit the [eCQI Resource Center](#)
- For questions related to the QRDA Implementation Guides and/or Schematrons, visit the ONC Project Tracking System (Jira) [QRDA project](#)

eCQI Resource Center - <https://ecqi.healthit.gov>

- The eCQI Resource Center:
 - eCQM specifications and implementation materials for eligible professionals, eligible clinicians, eligible hospitals, and CAHs
 - eCQI standards information
 - eCQI tools, resources, and educational materials



Contact the eCQI Resource Center and Measure Collaboration Workspace

- Email comments, suggestions, questions, and requests to post events and news to ecqi-resource-center@hhs.gov
- Visit the [eCQI Resource Center Frequently Asked Questions](#)