Overview

Electronic Clinical Quality Measure (eCQM) Strategy Project
Electronic Clinical Quality Improvement (eCQI) Resource Center
Measure Collaboration (MC) Workspace

Updated November 2023
eCQM Strategy Project
eCQM Strategy Background

Electronic Clinical Quality Measure (eCQM) Strategy Project Goals

• Reduce Burden
• Increase Value
• Increase Stakeholder Involvement

Problem Statement

• Providers participating in CMS quality and value-based purchasing programs have shared challenges they experience related to the complexity and high burden of eCQM implementation, data capture, and reporting.

Project Scope

• Measure Development process from concept to the Measures Under Consideration (MUC) List
• Electronic Clinical Quality Reporting requirements and processes from eCQM implementation to submission
• Tools for Development and Reporting
eCQM Strategy Journey Map
eCQM Strategy Recommendations

ALIGNMENT
- eCQM reporting requirements across CMS program care settings
- eCQM specifications, value sets, and data collection

COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, AND OUTREACH
- Coordinated education and outreach campaigns to learn from stakeholders and share CMS program information
- Measure-level webinars
- Clear eCQM guidance, plain language, and improved website usability

EHR CERTIFICATION PROCESS
- eCQM certification aligned with CMS reporting requirements

VALUE
- Quality dashboard best practice collaboration between providers and CMS
- Data element definitions

DEVELOPMENT PROCESS
- Collaborative Measure Development Workspace
- Data element repository
- Clinically feasible workflow for data capture
- Feasibility testing for new data elements

IMPLEMENTATION AND REPORTING PROCESSES
- Clear eCQM specifications, tools, and resources
- Feasible data elements
- Submission of data elements and eCQMs with FHIR and APIs
- Use of eCQM standards to support interoperability
- Consolidated pre-submission validation testing tools
- eCQM attribution research and pilots
eCQI Resource Center
eCQI Resource Center

• The Electronic Clinical Quality Improvement (eCQI) Resource Center: Transforming eCQI through collaboration, education, and standards.
• This website has the most current news, events, and resources related to eCQM tools and standards.
• The website is a place to coordinate people and activities around eCQI.
• www.ecqi.healthit.gov
The eCQI Resource Center provides the most current resources for electronic clinical quality improvement, such as:

- eCQMs and Supporting Materials
- Tools and Resources
  - eCQM Annual Timeline
  - Education
  - Implementation Resources
  - eCQI Tools & Resources Library
- eCQI Standards
  - Clinical Quality Language (CQL)
  - Quality Data Model (QDM)
  - Quality Reporting Document Architecture (QRDA)
  - HL7 Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources® (FHIR®)
- Measure Collaboration (MC) Workspace
  - eCQM Concepts
  - eCQM Data Element Repository
  - eCQM Testing Opportunities
eCQM Annual Timeline

https://ecqi.healthit.gov/ecqm-annual-timeline

The eCQM Annual Timeline is a general guide provided for referencing scheduled updates for eCQMs, tools, reporting, rules, public comments and more. The timelines listed are subject to change. Interactive pdf (PDF)

eCQM Annual Timeline by Calendar Quarter

1st Quarter

- CMS Measures Inventory Tool Updated
- CMS Quality Reporting Document Architecture Implementation Guide Public Comments

Reporting

- Inpatient Quality Reporting Submission Closed
- MIPS Quality Measure Benchmarks (ZIP)
- Quality Payment Program Reporting Submission Open and

Rule

- Pre-Rulemaking: Measures Under Consideration Opens for New Measures
- Pre-Rulemaking: Pre-Rulemaking Measure Review Publishes Final Report

Select a Quarter
# eCQI Tools and Key Resources

[https://ecqi.healthit.gov/ecqi-tools-key-resources?qt-teste=0](https://ecqi.healthit.gov/ecqi-tools-key-resources?qt-teste=0)

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**eCQI Tools & Key Resources**

*Receive updates on this topic*

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### Filter Tools & Resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BY TITLE</th>
<th>BY CATEGORY</th>
<th>BY ROLE</th>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Role</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonnie FHIR</td>
<td>Development, Implementation, Testing</td>
<td>Health IT Developer/Vendor, Measure Developer/Steward</td>
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</table>

Bonnie is a software tool that allows eCQM developers to test and verify the behavior of their eCQM logic. The Bonnie Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR) application allows eCQM developers to load FHIR measures they have constructed using the Measure Authoring Tool (MAT), which helps measure developers execute the eCQM logic against the constructed patient test deck and evaluates whether the logic aligns with the intent of the eCQM.
eCQM Standards – FHIR Example

https://ecqi.healthit.gov/fhir

**RESOURCES AND TOOLS**
- eCQI Tools & Resources
- eCQM and eCQI Educational Resources
- eCQM Implementation Checklist
- eCQM Annual Timeline
- Value Set Information

**ECQI STANDARDS**
- Standards Summary
- Standards Harmonization
- CQL – Clinical Quality Language
- FHIR® – Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources®
- HQMF – Health Quality Measure Format
- QDM – Quality Data Model
- QRDA – Quality Reporting Document Architecture
- USCDI+ Quality – United States Core Data for Interoperability Plus Quality
How to Access the eCQM's:

Select EC, EH/CAH, or OQR eCQM's from the main eCQM drop down at the top or use the search bar on the homepage to find eCQM's.
Select the Reporting Period for EH measures from this drop-down menu.

For Eligible Clinicians, select the Performance Period - https://ecqi.healthit.gov/ep-ec
### Eligible Hospital / Critical Access Hospital eCQM Examples

**2024 Reporting Period Eligible Hospital / Critical Access Hospital eCQMs**

Total number of EH/CAH eCQMs: 12

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Short Name</th>
<th>CMS eCQM</th>
<th>NQF Number</th>
<th>Specifications</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tr>
<td>Anticoagulation Therapy for Atrial Fibrillation/Flutter</td>
<td>STK-5</td>
<td>CMS71v13</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
<td>CMS71v13.zip (ZIP)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Antithrombotic Therapy By End of Hospital Day 2</td>
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<td>CMS334v5</td>
<td>0471e</td>
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1. Select the EH/CAH Tab
2. Select a Measure

Receive updates on this topic
eCQM and eCQI Educational Resources

https://ecqi.healthit.gov/ecqm-and-ecqi-education-resources

Get Started with eCQMs
General resources for developing, implementing, updating, and reporting eCQMs

eCQI Tools & Key Resources
Resources available include tools & resources library, standards and tools versions, and education

CQL
Resources available on the Clinical Quality Language (CQL) standard

FHIR
Resources available on the Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources® (FHIR) standard

QDM
Resources available on the Quality Data Model (QDM) standard

QRDA
Resources available on the Quality Reporting Document Architecture (QRDA) standard
Measure Collaboration (MC) Workspace
How to Access the MC Workspace

1. Click on "Resources" in the navigation menu.
2. Under "ECQMs", select "Measure Collaboration (MC) Workspace".

The image shows a screenshot of the eCQI Resource Center website, highlighting the steps to access the Measure Collaboration (MC) Workspace.
Overview of the MC Workspace

https://ecqi.healthit.gov/mcworkspace
eCQM Concepts (1 of 2)

- Allows users to submit eCQM Concepts to CMS for review
- Users can search submitted concepts and comment on them
- Links to existing resources are available for users to research measures in progress
- Create an account
Suggest an eCQM Concept

- Add
  - Description of the eCQM Concept
  - Place of Care that is most relevant to this clinical focus area
  - Rationale for why you think this eCQM concept is important to measure
  - Concept Population for a brief description of the clinical focus area, target population, and relevant background information.
Measure Collaboration (MC) Workspace

Electronic Clinical Quality Measure (eCQM) Testing Opportunities

The eCQM Testing Opportunity module provides stakeholders with available opportunities to participate in eCQM testing. Measure developers use testing for a variety of reasons throughout the Measure Lifecycle. They need pilot sites to:

- assess measure feasibility
- determine the extent to which the required data elements are available and retrievable in the electronic health record (EHR)/health information technology (IT)
- determine the extent to which measured entities can implement without undue burden for performance measurement
- assess measure reliability
- assess measure validity
- reassess after updating specifications
- assess measure usefulness

Are you a stakeholder interested in testing eCQMs?

There are several potential benefits:

- Test site staff will gain insight into quality measurement that could help your organization refine its internal efforts to improve quality.
- Test site staff will help provide insight for a measure that CMS may use in its quality reporting programs.
- Test sites may receive an incentive payment.

- Provides stakeholders with available opportunities to participate in eCQM testing
- Provides measure developers with forum to announce testing opportunities
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Select a Filter Option</th>
<th>Search</th>
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<td>2024</td>
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eCQM Data Element Repository (2 of 2)

Measure Collaboration (MC) Workspace

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

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The Year Filter Allows Users to Select Between Three Years - Past, Current, and Future

The QDM datatypes filter provides a listing of all QDM datatypes available for use in eCQMs for CMS quality reporting. A QDM datatype is the context in which each QDM category is used to describe a part of the clinical care process. For each QDM category and datatype, the page provides the respective definition along with the available attribute groupings for the selected QDM datatype. Learn more about QDM components by visiting the About QDM page.
Anticoagulation Therapy for Atrial Fibrillation/Flutter (STK-3)

CMS Measure ID: CMS71v13      Performance/Reporting Period: 2024      NQF Number: Not Applicable

Description:
Ischemic stroke patients with atrial fibrillation/flutter who are prescribed or continuing to take anticoagulation therapy at hospital discharge

Data Elements and coded QDM Attributes contained within the eCQM

["Assessment, Performed", "History of Atrial Ablation"]

Value Set Description from VSAC
CLINICAL FOCUS: The purpose of this value set is to represent concepts for a situation of a personal history of an atrial ablation.
DATA ELEMENT SCOPE: This value set may use a model element related to a diagnosis or assessment.
INCLUSION CRITERIA: Includes concepts that identify a situation for a personal history of an atrial ablation.
EXCLUSION CRITERIA: No Exclusions.
Constrained to codes in the History of Atrial Ablation value set (2.16.840.1.113755.1.4.1110.76).

- Displays the measure title and description
- Provides a listing of data elements used in the measure
MC Workspace Link & Feedback

Access the MC Workspace via the eCQI Resource Center

https://ecqi.healthit.gov/mc-workspace-2

Provide questions, suggestions, and feedback to

ecqi-resource-center@hhs.gov
Disclaimer

This presentation was current as of November 2023. Medicare policy changes frequently. Any links to Medicare online source documents are for reference use only. Content will be updated on a periodic basis to reflect the most current CMS policy, requirements, and content related to the eCQM Strategy.

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