Webinar # 3:

Measure Development Education & Outreach for Specialty Societies & Patient Advocacy Groups

Introduction to electronic clinical quality measures (eCQMs)

Presenter:
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Battelle
December 7, 2016
2pm ET

Vision and Goals: Webinar Series

Measure Development Education & Outreach for Specialty Societies & Patient Advocacy Groups

- An ongoing process to engage clinical specialty societies and patient advocacy groups in quality measure development.

- Elicit feedback that will help CMS design toolkits and enduring materials designed specifically for specialty societies and patient advocacy groups interested in measure development.

✓ Education
✓ Outreach
✓ Frequent Communication
✓ Enduring Materials
✓ Dedicated Websites

✓ Measure Development Roadmaps
✓ Targeted Newsletters and Communication
✓ Showcase Opportunities

Introduction to eCQMs- Webinar # 3:

Measure Development Education & Outreach for Specialty Societies & Patient Advocacy Groups

Agenda, Webinar # 3:

- A little history
- What is an electronic clinical quality measure (eCQM)?
- How is an eCQM different from other clinical quality measures?
- What does this mean for you?
- Questions

Introduction to eCQMs

Clinical Quality Measure Data Collection in CMS Quality Reporting Programs

- Manual abstraction of the patient record, for example
  - Data entered into the CMS Abstraction & Reporting Tool (CART)
  - Data entered into a data submission vendor's tool
  - Data entered into a provider's submission tool
  - Data entered into National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN)
  - Data entered onto a claim form – quality data codes (QDCs)
  - Data entered into a registry
  - Data entered into Consolidated Renal Operations in a Web-Enabled Network (CROWNWeb)
  - Data entered into The Inpatient Rehabilitation Validation and Entry System (JiRVEN) – Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility Patient Assessment Instrument (IRF-PAI)
- Regular claims submission

Introduction to eCQMs

Chart-Abstracted Measures

- **Chart-Abstracted Clinical Quality Measures**

  – Require hospitals and clinicians to manually review patient records

  – Sampling of eligible patient records is the norm

  – Require human intervention and interpretation of documentation

  – Allow more flexibility in data gathering than eCQMs

Introduction to eCQMs

- Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act (HITECH) required reporting of quality measure data via certified electronic health record technology (CEHRT)

- 113 existing National Quality Forum (NQF)-endorsed measures "retooled" into eCQMs

  - 29 Adopted by electronic health record (EHR) Incentive Program for eligible hospitals (EHs) and critical access hospitals (CAHs)

  - 64 Adopted by EHR Incentive Program for eligible professionals (EPs)

  - Most of the retooled measures were developed from chart-abstracted measures, but some from claims-based and survey-based

Enter eCQMs (2 of 2)

- CMS allowed attestation of eCQM results in the providers 1st year(s) of participation
  - Submission pilots in 2013 (2011 specifications)
  - Submission pilots in 2014 (2014 specifications)
  - Annual updates to eCQMs

- eCQMs not just for the EHR Incentive Program; Incorporated into:
  - Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS)
  - Comprehensive Primary Care (CPC)
  - Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting
  - Quality Payment Program (QPP)
  - Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS)
  - Alternate Payment Model (APMs)

Introduction to eCQMs

Clinical Quality Measure Collection in CMS Quality Reporting Programs

Introduction to eCQMs

What is an eCQM?

- An eCQM is a clinical quality measure specified in the Health Quality Measure Format (HQMF) plus

- HQMF is a Health Level 7 (HL7) standard for representing a clinical quality measure as an electronic document (Extensible Markup Language [XML] format)

- Ideally, the HQMF provides for measure consistency and unambiguous interpretation

- HQMF provides the syntax (document structure), but does not specify where in the EHR the data must be/can be found

Introduction to eCQMs

What is an eCQM? (cont.)

Two types:

- Re-specified eCQM
  - eCQM created from a CQM developed for other data sources / data abstraction methods
- De novo eCQM
  - A new eCQM not based on an existing measure. De novo eCQMs are specified as eCQMs from their inception using the Measure Authoring Tool (MAT)

Clinical Quality Measure Data Collection in CMS Quality Reporting Programs
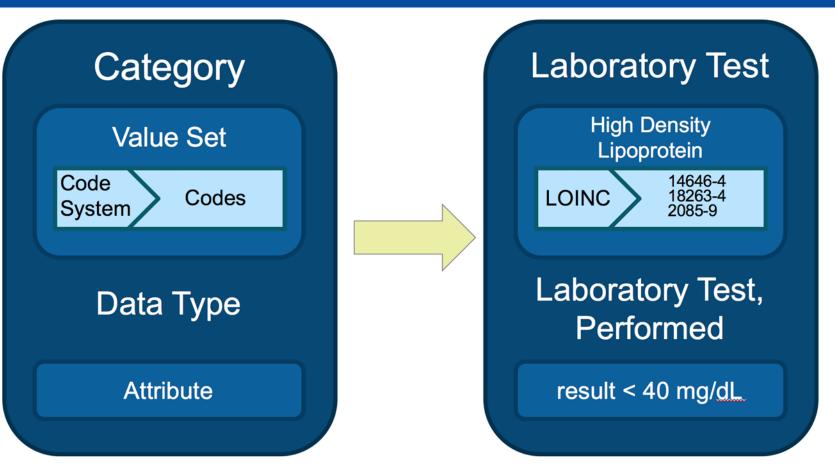
Introduction to eCQMs

Clinical Quality Measure (CQM) and eCQM Differences

- eCQMs require the use of standards and tools
- An EHR or other health information technology are the primary sources of data for an eCQM
- Data in the EHR should be captured as part of regular workflow
- Other electronic data may be captured, e.g., from a laboratory information system
- The logic must be explicitly stated
- eCQMs require additional steps to map measure data elements to corresponding information model components and standard terminologies to assemble the data criteria

Introduction to eCQMs

Standards to Create an eCQM

- Quality Data Model (QDM)
  - Provides the grammar to express eCQMs
  - Each QDM element is composed of a *category* of information, a *datatype* (or context of use), and a *value set*
  - The value set defines the specific *instance* of the category by assigning a set of values (or codes)
  - Existing value sets are available in the Value Set Authority Center (VSAC)
  - Currently includes the measure logic
- Value sets are created in the VSAC using standard terminologies

Introduction to eCQMs

Quality Data Model (QDM) Element Structure

Source – Quality Data Model v 4.3
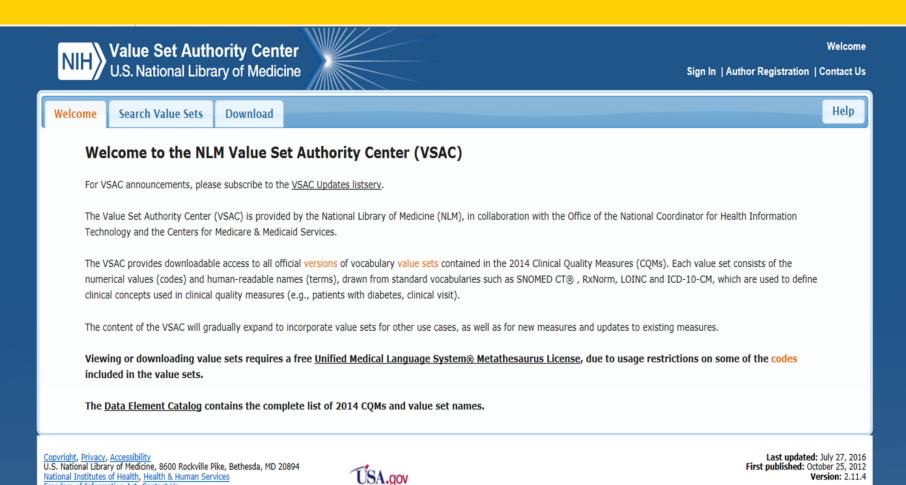
Introduction to eCQMs

eCQMs

- eCQMs rely on standard terminologies to capture data for quality measurement
  - Systems need to support terminology standards such as LOINC, RxNorm, and SNOMED CT
  - Terminology and data element requirements may necessitate EHR vendors to redesign and reconfigure workflows and data entry mechanisms to meet the measure collection requirements

- Terminology differences, which define the numerators, denominators, exclusions, and exceptions, create differences in the populations of chart-abstracted measures as compared with eCQMs

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Introduction to eCQMs

Tools to Create an eCQM

- MAT
  - A web-based tool for measure developers to author eCQMs
  - Uses the QDM, links with VSAC, outputs HQMF
  - [Click here to access CMS' eMeasure tool website](#)
- VSAC
  - [Click here to access the VSAC website](#)

Introduction to eCQMs

Value Set Authority Center (VSAC)

Introduction to eCQMs

Clinical Quality Measure Submission in CMS Quality Reporting Programs

- CMS XML (QualityNet portal)
  - Data Submission Vendors
  - CART
- Claims
- Registry XML
- Qualified Clinical Data Registry (QCDR) XML
- Group Practice Reporting Options (GPRO) XML
- Outcome and Assessment Information Set (OASIS)
- Minimum Data Set (MDS)
- Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS) Surveys
- Quality Reporting Document Architecture (QRDA)

Introduction to eCQMs

- QRDA is a Clinical Document Architecture (CDA)-based HL7 standard for reporting quality measure data

- Two types in use
  - QRDA Category I – patient-level
  - QRDA Category III – aggregated patient data calculated from QRDA Category I documents

- QRDA is the file submitted to and received by the CMS system

- For hospital reporting, only QRDA Category I is accepted

- EPs can submit in either QRDA I or QRDA III

Introduction to eCQMs

Tools for Testing eCQMs

- Bonnie - [Click here to access Bonnie](#)

- Cypress - [Click here to access Cypress](#)

- Pre-submission QRDA Validation Tools
  - Presubmission Validation Application (PSVA)
  - Submission Engine Validation Tool (SEVT)

Introduction to eCQMs

Clinical Quality Measure Submission in CMS Quality Reporting Programs

Introduction to eCQMs

Now and the Future

- eCQMs are now part of several different CMS quality reporting programs
- eCQMs are expected to be added to more programs in the near future
- The current version of the Blueprint has a separate section on eCQMs
  - eCQM information will be integrated within the Blueprint

Introduction to eCQMs

Potential/Actual Impacts to Quality Reporting Programs

Migration to eCQMs can potentially impact different aspects of quality programs, including, but not limited to:

Category	Details
Data Collection	• Data are entered into EHR, not paper charts • Data are extracted from EHRs, no longer manually abstracted from charts
Data Submission	• Amount of data submitted may increase • Data are submitted in a different format • Submission deadlines have changed for hospitals • Third-party data aggregation vendor policies and regulations may need to be updated
Validation	• New validation processes have been established for hospitals since EHR-extracted data in QRDA format are different than manually-abstracted data in the existing XML format
Appeals	• Appeal timelines could shift • Valid reasons for appeals could change

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Introduction to eCQMs

References

- eCQI Resource Center
  - [Click here to access the eCQI Resource Center](#)
- CMS MAT
  - [Click here to access CMS' MAT website](#)
- VSAC
  - [Click here to access the VSAC website](#)
- NQF
  - [Click here to access NQF's website](#)
- JIRA
  - [Click here to access the JIRA website](#)

Introduction to eCQMs

Program-Specific eCQM Questions

- For questions related to eCQMs in the Hospital IQR Program requirements, policy, and alignment, contact the Inpatient Support Team at (844) 472-4477 (8:00am – 8:00pm ET) or submit questions via the Q&A Tool: Click here to access the Q&A Tool

- For questions on the EHR Incentive Program ("Meaningful Use"), please contact the EHR Information Center (EHRIC) at (888) 734-6433 (7:30am – 6:30pm CT)

- For questions related to PQRS Policy and Programs, please contact the QualityNet Help Desk E-mail qnetsupport@hcqis.org and Phone: (866) 288-8912 or TTY: (877) 715-6222

- For questions related to the Quality Payment Program (QPP), please contact QPP@cms.hhs.gov or (866) 288-8292. Also see https://qpp.cms.gov/

Introduction to eCQMs

Discussion Questions

- Are there eCQMs available for your practice area? If not, what practice areas are lacking? What support do you need to develop eCQMs?

- What issues have you experienced with eCQMs – positive or negative?

- Have eCQMs reduced your reporting burden? If not, why not?

- Have you needed to change workflow or documentation practices to accommodate eCQMS? If yes, what?

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Introduction to eCQMs

CMS Spotlight Opportunities

Measure Development Education & Outreach for Specialty Societies & Patient Advocacy Groups

Reminder:

If you are currently developing quality measures that you would like to present to CMS contact the MMS Support Desk at MMSsupport@Battelle.org

Introduction to eCQMs

Planned Upcoming Webinars:

- Suggestions for future topics?

- Email: MMSsupport@battelle.org

For More Information & Questions

Measure Development Education & Outreach for Specialty Societies & Patient Advocacy Groups

- **<u>Battelle</u>**

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