



eCQM Webinar # 3

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



*Introduction to
electronic clinical
quality measures
(eCQMs) testing*

Presenter:

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2 p.m. 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 Testing

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

Webinar Agenda:

- Learning objectives
- What is eCQM testing?
- Phases of eCQM testing
- Who participates in eCQM testing?
- Testing activities
- Findings from testing
- Testing challenges
- Conclusions

Introduction to eCQM Testing

Learning Objectives

- At the end of this webinar, participants will be able to:
 - Describe eCQM testing
 - Identify eCQM testing participants
 - Understand how testing activities align with National Quality Forum (NQF) criteria
 - Describe challenges inherent in eCQM testing

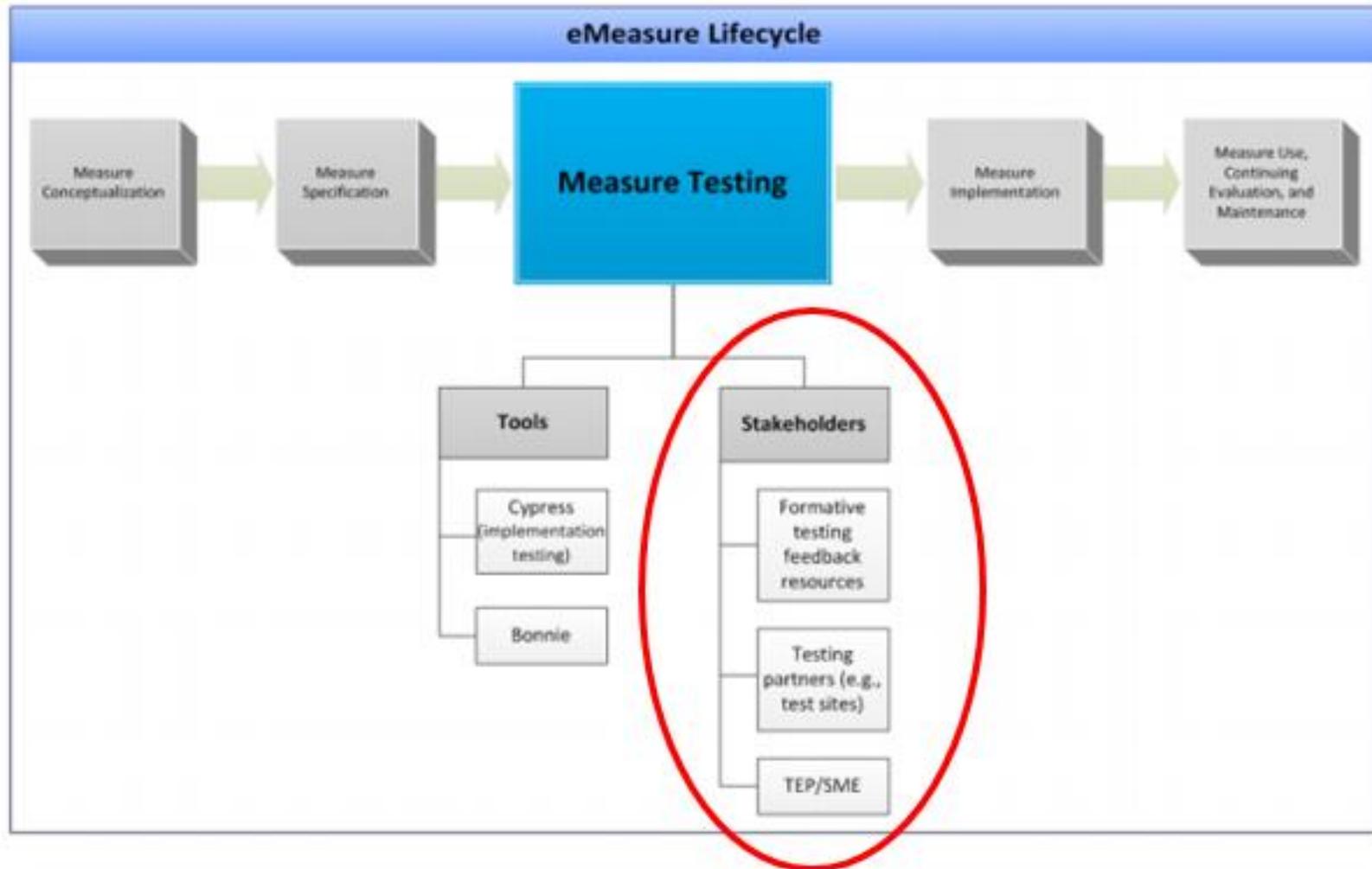
Introduction to eCQM Testing

What is eCQM testing?

- Iterative process of evaluating an eCQM's readiness for implementation and adoption by hospitals, practices, and/or providers
- Involves examining the measure properties of importance, feasibility, validity, reliability, and usability
- Guided by the [Blueprint for the CMS Measures Management System](#)

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eCQM Testing in Context



Source: Blueprint for CMS Measures Management System

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Phases of Testing - Alpha

- Alpha testing
 - Early, iterative form of testing
 - Determines availability of data elements within the EHR (feasibility)
 - Identifies logic ambiguities and vocabulary inconsistencies in the measure specification
 - Assesses support among stakeholders, including patients, providers, and specialty societies

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Phases of Testing - Beta

- Beta Testing
 - Field testing that involves extraction (electronic) and abstraction (manual) of patients' EHR data
 - Extraction informs measure reliability across providers and uncovers variability in provider performance
 - Do differences in scores between providers or between practices reflect true differences in performance, or is variation in scores a result of chance?
 - Abstraction informs data element and measure score validity testing
 - Does the electronically extracted data match the manually abstracted data?

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Who participates in eCQM testing?

- Test sites
- Patients, caregivers, and the public
- EHR vendors
- CMS
- Specialty societies
- Expert panels and other key stakeholders

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Testing Activities

- Clinician and IT staff interviews
- Patient and caregiver engagement
 - Advisory board
 - Focus groups
- Discussions with specialty societies
- Feasibility scorecard
- Public comment
- Vendor engagement
- EHR data extraction and abstraction

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Testing Activities and NQF Criteria

Data source	Importance	Feasibility	Scientific acceptability	Usability
Clinician and IT interviews	X	X		X
Patient / caregiver engagement	X			X
Discussion with specialty societies	X			X
Public comment	X			X
Feasibility scorecard		X		
EHR data extraction/abstraction			X	
EHR vendor engagement		X		

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Importance

- Is the measure important to making gains in healthcare quality and improving health outcomes for an aspect of care in which there is variation or overall poor performance?
- Testing activities:
 - Interviews / focus groups with providers & patients
 - Expert panels and specialty societies

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Feasibility

- Are the data elements available within the EHR accurate, captured within clinical workflows, and coded using a standard terminology?
- Testing activities
 - Feasibility scorecard
 - Interviews

Data Element Attributes	Timeline	DATA AVAILABILITY		DATA ACCURACY		DATA STANDARDS		WORKFLOW	
		Score	Additional Characteristics	Score	Additional Characteristics	Score	Additional Characteristics	Score	Additional Characteristics
	Current								
	Future								
	Current								
	Future								

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Scientific Acceptability (Reliability)

- Are variations in performance a result of true differences in care or are they the results of chance?
- Testing activities
 - EHR data extraction
 - Evaluate variation in provider scores

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Scientific Acceptability (Validity)

- Data element:
 - Do electronically extracted EHR data and manually abstracted data match?
- Measure score:
 - Does the measure score align with other established benchmarks of quality?
- Testing activities
 - EHR data abstraction

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Usability

- Usability
 - Are the measure results understandable to intended audiences, and are the results likely to be useful for decision making?
 - Seek input from clinicians, patients, specialty societies, and other key stakeholders
 - Interviews / focus groups
 - Surveys
 - Public comment

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Findings from Testing

- What do we learn through testing?
 - Importance of the measure
 - Appropriateness of the measure specifications
 - Data availability
 - Extent to which workflow supports measure
 - Anticipated implementation burden
 - Usability
 - Reliability and validity

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Testing Challenges

- Site recruitment and contracting
 - Competing priorities
 - Security requirements
- Site's technical capacity
- Data file formats
- Mapping to standard terminologies

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Conclusion

- Goal of testing is to determine if measure is important, feasible, scientifically acceptable, and usable
- Testing involves many different activities
- Many “players” involved in testing
- Testing results are reviewed on an ongoing basis
- Challenges will arise – be proactive, flexible and patient!

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Contact Information

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Questions, Suggestions, Discussion



CMS Showcase 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

eCQI Resource Center Webinar #3

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

Planned Upcoming Webinars:

February 15, 2017

Measure Development: Measure Specifications

The next eCQM-focused Webinar

March 29, 2017

Codes, Code Systems, and Value Sets

Suggestions for future topics?

Email: MMSSupport@battelle.org

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

Contact information:

- **Battelle**

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