Introduction to electronic clinical quality measures (eCQMs) testing

Presenter:
Kirsten Barrett, Ph.D.
Mathematica Policy Research
February 8, 2017
2 p.m. ET
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
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
Introduction to eCQM Testing

eCQM Testing in Context

Source: Blueprint for CMS Measures Management System
• 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
• 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
## Introduction to eCQM Testing

### Testing Activities and NQF Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data source</th>
<th>Importance</th>
<th>Feasibility</th>
<th>Scientific acceptability</th>
<th>Usability</th>
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<td>Feasibility scorecard</td>
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<td>EHR vendor engagement</td>
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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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data Element Attributes</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
<th>DATA AVAILABILITY</th>
<th>DATA ACCURACY</th>
<th>DATA STANDARDS</th>
<th>WORKFLOW</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Is the data readily available in a structured format?</td>
<td>Is the information contained in the data element correct? Are the data source and recorder specified?</td>
<td>Are the data elements coded using a national accepted terminology standard?</td>
<td>To what degree is the data element captured during the course of care? How does it impact the typical workflow for that user?</td>
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<th>Additional Characteristics</th>
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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

• Kirsten Barrett
  – 202-554-7564
  – kbarrett@mathematica-mpr.com
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
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
Contact information:

• **Battelle**
  Measures Management System Contract Holder: Battelle
  Contact:  MMSsupport@Battelle.org

• **CMS**
  Kristin Borowski: Kristin.Borowski@cms.hhs.gov
  Ted Long: Theodore.Long@cms.hhs.gov