eCQI Resource Center Demonstration Qs&As

Presentation Dates: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 & Thursday, January 28, 2016

Q. **Can we report on any version of a measure, or does it need to be the latest version?**

A. For electronic reporting, the version needs to be the latest version. For calendar year 2016 reporting, the June 2015 measure versions must be used.

Q. **When reporting eCQMs, does this resource indicate which updates are to be used for which reporting year(s)? This tends to be confusing to providers.**

A. Yes, the EP and EH pages indicate which updates are to be used for which reporting year.

Q. **Since the 2016 versions of the Implementation Guides are at the top on https://ecqi.healthit.gov/qrda, can you add a note that we should be using DSTU Release 3 of the QRDA Category I?**

A. Yes, thank you for this suggestion.

Q. **For a given e-reporting year, what is the best way to tell which specs should be used (QRDA, QDM, etc.)?**

A. The Measure Logic Document provides this information. The Measure Logic Documents can be found at https://ecqi.healthit.gov/ep and https://ecqi.healthit.gov/eh.

Q. **Will value set changes also be displayed?**

A. The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), and Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) are currently evaluating if and where this compare functionality may reside in the near future. The value sets are currently available within the Value Set Authority Center (VSAC) on National Library of Medicine (NLM's) website at https://vsac.nlm.nih.gov/

Q. **USHIK has a feature where we can compare different versions of the same CQMs and compare what has changed. Does the eCQI resource center plan on having this feature that shows the differences between old and current measures?**

A. There are plans for USHIK to provide that information for the 2016 Annual Updates. AHRQ, CMS, and ONC are currently evaluating if and where this compare functionality may reside in the eCQI Resource Center in the future.

Q. **How does the information here differ from that available on USHIK website?**

A. The eCQI Resource Center is a website that provides a centralized "one-stop shop" for stakeholders engaged in electronic quality improvement. It has a broader focus than USHIK and contains links to education, tools, resources, eCQM specifications, and eCQI information put forth by federal agencies such as the CMS, the ONC, the NLM, and AHRQ. The Resource Center contains eCQM specifications released by CMS for the

2014 eCQM specifications published in 2012 and their 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016 updates. Currently the USHIK repository contains the eCQM specifications released by CMS for the 2014 eCQM specifications published in 2012 and their 2013 and 2014 updates.

Q. **Will this website replace Quality Net?**
A. No. The eCQI Resource Center's focus is on electronic clinical quality standards and tools. Quality Net's focus is broader.

Q. **It appears that this resource, eCQI, is more for stakeholders or vendors/EHR developers vs a providers office, correct? Does any of this information pertain to hospice?**
A. The eCQI Resource Center has resources for various stakeholders and is continuing to evolve.

Q. **If we selected ED-1, ED-2, STK- 10 and STK-8, will we be meeting the 4 measures threshold? OR do we have to submit all STK measures for example to count as 1? Please clarify.**
A. The 4 measures you list will meet the 4 measure requirement. For IQR requirement, you may select 4 of 28 measures and for EHR Incentive Program select 4 of 29 eCQMs.

Q. **Will you be covering any parts of the PQRS? How might an EP use the Resource Center? Could you do a walk through with an example?**
A. Please reference the Implementers Corner and general measure information. https://ecqi.healthit.gov/ecqm/ecqi-implementers-corner.

Q. **For 2016, will the CQMs we used in 2015 work as the PQRS measures? Meaning, can we meet both programs if we harmonize and attest for CQMs? Can PQRS data be submitted thru eCQM in 2016 or 2017?**
A. Please direct PQRS and IQR Policy and Program questions to: QualityNet Help Desk (secure) E-mail: qnetsupport@hcqis.org Phone: (866) 288-8912 TTY: (877) 715-6222

Q. **Where would I find current reporting CQM 2016 on the site?**
A. Reporting information is located on cms.gov https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/EHRIncentivePrograms/2016ProgramRequirements.html and QualityNet https://www.qualitynet.org/

Q. **When will 2015 measures with 2016 updates be added to this website? When will the CQM 2016 changes be released?**
A. The 2016 Annual Updates to 2015 measures were published in April 2016. The Annual Updates are available on the CMS eCQM Library page and the eCQI Resource Center.

Q. **We have been told the CQM 2016 measure specs need to be applied for the 2017 Reporting period. Is that true?**

A. Yes. For electronic reporting for eligible professional programs and hospital quality reporting, the most recent version of the CQM, April 2016, must be used for CY 2017 reporting.

Q. **Can you tell us what the e-CQM requirements will be for 2017? i.e., we need to submit 4 measures electronically for 1 Quarter in 2016. How many will we need to submit for 2017?**

A. The 2017 measure requirements are being developed now and will be published in the appropriate final rule.

Q. **I assume this great new reference website will also contain the future MIPS details (once available in March) for next year's program merge of: MU / PQRS & VBM? The aforementioned MIPS is a federal quality program that has been communicated from CMS to the public. Therefore, I assume this content will soon also reflect the MIPS basics and intros since the measures are implied to be combo of: MU (CQM incl.), PQRS/VBM?**

A. Yes, as soon as information regarding MIPS eCQI standards and tools are finalized, that information will be posted to the eCQI Resource Center.

Q. **Can you access the SNOMED information from this site to get more detail on the eCQM measure? Will each eCQM have applicable CPT billing codes displayed?**

A. The SNOMED codes and CPT codes used with eCQMs are available through the VSAC https://vsac.nlm.nih.gov/. CPT Codes are needed for each eCQM applicable for EHR or PQRS in which we can compare to our Software vendors configurations. A free UMLS license is required for this code viewing.

Q. **How can we obtain the Value Sets?**

A. The Value Sets are available via the VSAC https://vsac.nlm.nih.gov/. A free UMLS license is required for value set viewing.

Q. **Can any healthcare worker obtain a UMLS license? What are the qualifications for obtaining one?**

A. Yes, please refer to the National Library of Medicine website https://www.nlm.nih.gov/research/umls/

Q. **What are the browser requirement for eCQI web page? Newer version meaning what version IE?**

A. The eCQI Resource Center should be viewable in newer versions of IE, Chrome, and Safari. IE versions 10, 11.

Q. **Is the QRDA pre-submission tool available for download on eCQI webpage?**

A. Links to this tool were reviewed during this demonstration. The link to this information is https://ecqi.healthit.gov/ecqm-tools-key-resources/cms-qrda-pre-submission-validation-tools

Q. **Does the Resource Center show anywhere the quality level providers need to meet the standards of what is considered "high quality" to improve themselves?**

A. No, suggested thresholds for quality measurements are not available on the eCQI Resource Center at this time.

Q. **How does CMS envision the eCQI RC will be put into practice by providers and their quality partners to drive care process and outcome improvement (e.g., in major national QI initiatives such as TCPI and others where eCQI is a centrepiece)?**

A. The eCQI Resource Center's focus is on electronic clinical quality standards and tools. At this time there are no plans to expand into care processes or quality improvement activities beyond electronic quality reporting.

Q. **Would this be the website I would direct my IT Dept. in order to prepare us for electronic reporting?**

A. Yes, this website provides information on submission testing tools.

Q. **When referring to "implementers" are you meaning EH/EPs, vendors? Exactly what group does this refer to?**

A. Implementers is used broadly and includes EH/EPs and health IT vendors.

Q. **I see a "sign in" section. Is this something of importance?**

A. Covered during demonstration presentation. A user name and password is not required to use the Resource Center. Having a user name and password allows one to obtain space membership and receive email updates.

Q. **What is the purpose of the section that appears on many pages labelled as "Request Space Membership"?**

A. Functionality reviewed during demo. With a user name and password, one can obtain space membership and receive email updates.

Q. **Is the login for eCQI linked to any other CMS log-ins? For example, EIDM or QNET, etc.**

A. The log in is not tied to other CMS log-ins at this time.

Q. **The website is extremely slow when loading pages, is the performance being addressed?**

A.   Yes, stress testing and load testing are planned for some time in the spring of 2016.

Q.   What is BONNIE?
A.   Bonnie is a tool for testing electronic clinical quality measures (eCQMs). This tool is designed for use by measure developers as part of their development process and validates that the eCQM logic matches the measure's intent. Bonnie uses patient scenarios to represent each logic component of the measure specification such as the IPP, denominator, numerator, exclusions, etc. Health IT developers and implementers may also use the tool to evaluate measure implementation into their systems. Measure developers use both Bonnie and MAT in concert to promote test driven development. More information can be found at https://bonnie.healthit.gov/

Q.   How does an organization update the description of their tool listed on Overview of eCQM-related Tools? https://ecqi.healthit.gov/ecqm-tools-key-resources
A.   The organization responsible for the tool is asked to review the description prior to posting on the eCQI Resource Center. Tool activities in the eCQI Resource Center are monitored for potential needed changes. Any proposed changes would be reviewed by the tool owner prior to publication.

Q.   Is the CMS QRDA Pre-Submission Validation tool the best option for a hospital to upload eCQMs file to ensure their test files do pass?
A.   It is an option endorsed by CMS. The Cypress Validation Utility also offers similar functionality.

Q.   Where could I find a sample implementation plan in Microsoft office or excel?
A.   QRDA implementation guides are available at https://ecqi.healthit.gov/qrda and also in the Implementation Corner at https://ecqi.healthit.gov/ecqm/ecqi-implementers-corner

Q.   For some of the EH measures, like in https://ecqi.healthit.gov/ep/2014-measures-2015-update/statin-prescribed-discharge, the page says it was last updated in August. That means the page and not the measure, correct?
A.   Correct, the page text was updated, not the measure specifications themselves.

Q.   It would be very helpful if all the documentation was kept together, or at least listed, to access by reporting year.
A.   Thank you for this suggestion.

Q.   How do we connect to this eCQI center?
A.   https://ecqi.healthit.gov/