

Electronic Clinical Quality Measure (eCQM) Annual Update Implementation Checklist

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) requires an Eligible Professional (EP), Eligible Clinician, Eligible Hospital (EH) or Critical Access Hospital (CAH) to use the most current version of the eCQMs for quality reporting programs.

This checklist assumes that a health care practice/organization has determined which measures to report on. It provides the necessary technical steps health information technology (IT) developers, implementers and health care organizations must take to update their systems and processes with the eCQM Annual Update for the upcoming reporting and performance periods. The latest eCQM materials for a given reporting year should be applied to your system for use in electronic quality reporting.

Pre-Check

- 1) Signup for a [Unified Medical Language System \(UMLS\) account](#). This account will allow you to access the National Library of Medicine's (NLM) Value Set Authority Center (VSAC) to view all codes included in eCQM value sets.
- 2) Signup for a [JIRA account](#). This account allows you to submit issues regarding eCQM implementation and receive feedback. Key topic areas include the CQM Issue Tracker, Quality Data Model (QDM) Issue Tracker, Quality Reporting Document Architecture (QRDA) Issue Tracker, Bonnie Issue Tracker and Cypress Issue Tracker. Review [JIRA instructions](#).
- 3) Signup for eCQM page change notifications on the eCQI Resource Center. Signing up for an [eCQI Resource Center account](#) and subscribing to the [Eligible Professional/Eligible Clinician](#) and/or [Eligible Hospital](#) pages will provide you with alert when the EP or EH page has been updated.
- 4) Review the code versions used in the Annual Update (for example, SNOMED CT 2016-09) by reviewing the [eCQM Pre-Publication document](#) and the [VSAC download page](#)
 - Work with your coding department and health IT vendor to ensure your systems have been updated to the latest code versions
 - Some value sets contain "legacy codes." These codes will be inactive in the current code system version but will be considered active in one of the prior code system versions noted in the file.
- 5) Review the [eCQM Pre-Publication document](#) and [Standards and Tool versions](#) used in the Annual Update.
 - Work with your health IT vendor to ensure your systems are using updated technical standards and testing tools.
 - Prepare for using eCQMs by reviewing the Guide for Reading [eCQMs](#).

Checklist

- 1) Access the appropriate eCQM Annual Update: [Eligible Professionals/Eligible Clinicians](#) or [Eligible Hospitals](#)
 - a. Review the updated eCQMs used in CMS quality programs for the current reporting/performance period in the sortable table on the [Eligible Hospital](#) or [Eligible Professional/Eligible Clinician](#) webpages
 - b. Download the eCQM annual update zip files and corresponding artifacts on the [Eligible Hospital](#) or [Eligible Professional/Eligible Clinician](#) webpages
- 2) Secure detailed information about each measure
 - a. Click into an eCQM on the online table to view detailed human-readable information on the measure
 - b. Download and open zip files for the individual eCQM your organization uses
 - c. Open the Hyper Text Markup Language (HTML) document that contains the measure specification description

- d. Review Health Quality Measure Format (HQMF) document (Include specific reading instruction)
- 3) Download the corresponding annual update value sets from NLM's [VSAC](#) using your UMLS license log in.
 - a. eCQM value set files with their associated data types and attributes are available on the Download tab at the VSAC website under the CMS eCQM Value Sets section.
 - b. Review the change files and retired code lists to confirm your patient record data is supported.
 - 4) Prepare to implement the updates by understanding changes to the eCQM.
 - a. Perform a Gap Analysis
 - i. Review updated value sets
 - ii. Use the United States Health Information Knowledgebase (USHIK) comparison tool which may be accessed directly from the measure tables located on the EP/Eligible Clinician and EH pages of the eCQI Resource Center. Select the most current version of the eCQMs and the version of the eCQM you are using. This side by side comparison provides a visual of all changes to a measure, identify the updates that require action on your part such as updating diagnosis codes and/or data fields available in your electronic health record (EHR) or an end user's workflow.)
 - b. Read the Technical Release Notes. The Technical Release Notes provide a list of all changes to a measure. Identify the updates that require action on your part such as updating diagnosis codes and/or data fields available in your EHR or an end user's workflow.
 - c. Read the Measure Logic Guidance. The Measure Logic Guidance provides general logic implementation guidance along with detailed information on topics such as measure versioning and time interval calculations.
 - d. Define what system requirements are needed to implement update.
 - e. Consider potential workflow impacts, review the [workflow section](#) of the eCQM 102 – How to Implement Quality Measure Updates presentation.
 - f. Compile list of system requirements across the measures the organization will report, as well as overall workflow impacts.
 - g. Implement system changes to support data capture for the updated measures.
 - h. Educate clinicians on changes to data entry or workflow, if any.
 - 5) Prepare to report the updated eCQMs
 - a. Review the [QRDA Reference and Implementation Guides](#) for eCQMs
 - 6) Reach out for help:
 - a. For questions related to eCQM implementation, specifications, logic, data elements, standards, or tools, please go to JIRA (online tracking tool): <https://oncprojectracking.healthit.gov>
 - b. Submit eCQM tool and standards questions and provide feedback via [JIRA Issue Trackers](#): QDM Issue Tracker, QRDA Issue Tracker, Bonnie Issue Tracker, and Cypress Issue Tracker
 - c. For questions on the Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting (IQR) Program requirements, policy, and alignment, refer to the Inpatient Support Team (844) 472-4477 (8:00am – 8:00pm ET) or submit questions via the Q&A Tool: <https://cms-ip.custhelp.com>
 - d. For questions on the Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Program ("Meaningful Use") please contact the QualityNet Help Desk at qnetsupport@hcquis.org or call (866) 288-8912, Monday through Friday 7 am- 7 pm CT
 - e. For questions on the Quality Payment Program (QPP), please contact QPP@cms.hhs.gov or (866) 288-8292

Send suggestions for improving this checklist to the eCQI Resource Center to ecqi-resource-center@hhs.gov.