

National Testing Collaborative Workgroup

Focus:

The National Testing Collaborative (NTC) Workgroup is comprised of CMS staff, eCQM contractors, measure developers, providers, health systems, and health IT vendors. The Workgroup was established to improve the quality of eCQMs by developing a national testing collaborative with stakeholders such as measure developers, health IT vendors, eligible professionals, eligible hospitals and those that implement and support implementation of the eCQMs.

History and Background:

The National Testing Collaborative Workgroup came out the December 8-12, 2014 eCQM Kaizen Event. The discussion at this meeting led to identification of challenges, aha moments, and the desired future state. A summary of the Kaizen Event is provided at this link <https://ecqi.healthit.gov/file/12536> on the eCQI Resource Center.

Goals and Objectives:

Challenges/Aha's:

- Different measure developers may have different processes and sequences of steps during measure testing.
 - Measure developers are generally working towards the same goals of illustrating feasibility, validity and reliability, feasibility of the measures, the approach, tools, data and sequencing can vary widely.
 - In most cases, measure developers do not move forward if the initial feasibility assessment shows industry readiness does not align with a concept or measure.
 - For example, if the current standards or data elements are not available, the measure will not move forward.
 - However, the opposite applies as well - some measure development contracts are focused on pushing future capabilities and working around constraints.
- Despite process differences, there is significant duplicative effort involved in identifying and recruiting providers and securing necessary agreements before testing can begin.
- Creating an NTC can align the interests of measure developers, providers, and health IT vendors. The NTC would reduce time and cost for measure development while engaging providers early in the testing resulting in higher quality.

Desired Future State:

A collaborative of providers interested in being involved in measure development is provided a common framework of legal templates to shorten the time to initial engagement, etc. The below activities will be done in order to create this.

- Creating national testing collaborative framework
- Governance research
- Funding potential/strategy
- Awareness campaign and promotion
- Create Contracting and SOW Template – poll NTC charter members and other kaizen champions to request contracting documents used by measure developers; send SOW template, reps/certs, etc.
- Create tools, templates, Best Practices Library – pull sample DET, DCF, sampling code and STN code and poll members for similar resources

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- Recruiting and vetting

Incorporate for MU3 (not sure we got to discuss this in great detail at the Kaizen but we already know the Kaizen measure implementation work future state includes looking to the NTC for pilot testing participants around June 2015.

Workgroup Metrics:

- 1) Rolodex framework developed and populated
- 1) Increase recruitment of multi-stakeholders - recruit 15 and secure 50 interested parties
- 2) Contracting documents updated
- 3) Identify pilots – rolodex, contracting, test with EP and EH eQMs

Results – December 2014 to Date:

The NTC workgroup continues to meet monthly and is refining a list of questions and sites interested in participating in the NTC. LSU has been identified as the pilot site for testing the first de novo eQCM and is in process of that testing. CMS is still looking at opportunities for funding potential.

For more information on the National Testing Collaborative Workgroup contact ecqi-resource-center@hhs.gov.

For information on current opportunities to engage with the eCQI Community visit the eCQI Resource Center at <https://ecqi.healthit.gov/ecqi/engage-ecqi>.