

# Standards and Tools Lean Workgroup

## Focus:

The Standards and Tools Lean Workgroup is comprised of CMS personnel and contractors who are electronic clinical quality measure (eCQM) standards developers, e.g., Quality Data Model (QDM) and Quality Reporting Data Architecture (QRDA), and those creating eCQM development and testing tools, e.g., Measure Authoring Tool (MAT), Cypress, and Bonnie, and CMS eCQM receiving systems. The Workgroup was established to improve the quality, timing, and communications of technical assistance materials for stakeholders such as EHR vendors, eligible professionals, and eligible hospitals.

## History and Background:

The Standards and Tools Lean Workgroup came out of the Future Standards & Timelines subgroup at 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 - December 2014 – July 2015:

- Release Schematrons six to nine months sooner than previous releases, summer 2015
- Synchronization and combination of the CMS QRDA Implementation Guide (IG) and Schematrons for eligible professionals and eligible hospitals
- Release QRDA IG by April 2015, later revised to July 2015
- Coverage of all relevant meetings
- Communication of standards and tools to stakeholders

## Results – December 2014 – July 2015:

The Combined Workgroup successfully completed the creation and publication of the 2016 CMS QRDA Implementation Guide, Schematrons, and Sample Files in July 2015. The Workgroup met four of the five goals in July 2015 and the fifth, Communication of Standards and Tools, was partially met via successful communication of the IG, Schematron, and Sample File releases. That goal will continue in FY 2016 with a focus on communicating additional timelines. In August and September of 2015, the Workgroup developed and socialized a timeline for CY 2016 eCQM-related standards and tools. The Workgroup's name changed to the Standards & Tools Lean Workgroup to reflect its relationship with Lean principles.

## Watch-It Indicators and Results:

What will you measure to gauge the changes in your process?	How will you measure this?	Is it a Direct or Indirect result of the changes you are making?	How many times will you collect?	Indicator Goal	July 2015
Watch It Indicator #1: Schematron Schedule and Process	Schematron release date	Direct	Once	Schematron ready 6 to 9 months sooner (summer 2015).	Accomplished July 2015.

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Watch It Indicator #2: Schematron layering	Requirements gathering of parallel sets of concurrent changes	Direct	Monthly	Synchronization of eligible professionals and hospitals.	Schematron synchronization has occurred as much as can be done.
Watch It Indicator #3: QRDA IG	QRDA IG release date	Direct	Once	Release in April 2015.	IG was published July 2015.
Watch It Indicator #4: Contractor meeting attendance	Meeting attendance	Direct	Monthly	Coverage of all relevant meetings.	Contractors are able to attend relevant meetings.
Watch It Indicator #5: Communication of standards and Tools	Communication plan	Direct	Monthly	Identification of existing communication pathways.	Communicated IG, Schematron, and Sample Files. Need to work on communicating other timelines.

## Summary:

Because the Standards and Tools Lean Workgroup met all of its Watch It Indicators, the Workgroup has stopped meeting. All activities have been transitioned to other workgroups.

For more information on the Standards and Tools Lean Workgroup contact Kathy Lesh at [lesh@battelle.org](mailto:lesh@battelle.org).