

Quality Measurement Entities

National Quality Forum (NQF)

Nonprofit organization, recognized in the Affordable Care Act. The ACA charges the Secretary of HHS to use an independent, consensus development, multi-stakeholder organization to consider, analyze, and recommend quality measures for federal health and health-related programs. NQF is a membership organization that considers health quality measures in both the public and private sectors.

The primary mechanism to achieve the public payer purpose is CMS (NQF is the contractor) – **Measure Applications Partnership (MAP)** – attempts to coordinate all measure domains and make recommendations for CMS and related federal programs.

Multiple HHS agencies have sponsored and financed special measure projects, such as Home-and-Community-Based Services, and sponsor and finance on-going topical measure areas, such as primary care and behavioral health.

Public Process and Public Transparency: All NQF committees and meetings are open to the public, have public comment sessions, and draft reports and products are made available for public comments. Public comments are included in the final reports and products and during the last few years, NQF has frequently included a NQF response to public comments in the final report.

Mathematica for CMS

CMS previously charged the NQF to consider, analyze, and recommend Medicaid and CHIP core quality measures. There are child set measures and adult set measures.

During the Trump Administration, CMS replaced the NQF with Mathematica to consider, analyze, and recommend Medicaid and CHIP Core Quality Measures (adult focused core; and, child focused core). Only Mathematica selected committee members can recommend measures for consideration. Mathematica for CMS meetings are open to the public and allows public comment.

Core Quality Measures Collaborative (CQMC)

Trump Administration CMS-America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP) initiative. This was an AHIP administered initiative for dues paying private organizations, who were screened and approved by AHIP. CQMC meetings are private and confidential. Only final products are publicly available. Under some criticism, CQMC agreed that National Quality Forum (NQF) staff, would staff the CQMC. However, meetings and drafts are still private and confidential. CQMC has focused on both public payer and private payer, including a focus on "cross-cutting" measures. A minimum threshold of professional societies/provider associations and health plans must agree to all recommendations.

This year, CQMC initiated a health equity workgroup. This initiative permits public listening of meetings and public sharing of some meeting materials.

Agency for Health Care Research and Quality (AHRQ) – CAHPS (Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems)

Developed and manages various modules of CAHPS – AHRQ registered trademark public domain instruments. CAHPS focuses on the “patient” experience with health care. With CMS partnership, developed and manages the CAHPS – HCBS (Home-and-Community-Based Services) instrument and process. CAHPS-HCBS is focused on the experiences of adult Medicaid beneficiaries, AHRQ publicly reports CAHPS results.

National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) – HEDIS (Healthcare Effectiveness and Data Information Set)

A private non-profit organization established by health plans. Developed and manages HEDIS – health plan quality measures. NCQA is increasingly engaged in piloting and documenting quality measures sponsored by or interested by public agencies. A leading accreditation organization of health plans.

ACL (Administration for Community Living) – HCBS Quality Measures

ACL supports a variety of home-and-community-based services (HCBS) quality measurement projects. These include:

1. Two versions of the **National Core Indicators** (NCI) managed by the Human Services Research Institute (HSRI). HSRI is a private organization with NASDDDS and ADvancing States as collaborators.
2. University of Minnesota, Institute on Community Integration, HCBS measure collaborative project
3. Shirley Ryan Ability Lab – NIDILRR Rehabilitation Research Training Center on HCBS

Council on Quality and Leadership (CQL) – Personal Outcome Measures (POMs)

A private nonprofit organization focused on accreditation, training, and certification, CQL developed and manages the POMs, experience surveys used by a variety of public programs.

CMS Star Ratings

CMS process that substantially relies on NCQA measures. Star Ratings are available for Medicare Advantage (Part C) Plans, Medicare Part D Medication Plans, hospitals, nursing homes, home health agencies, and other settings.

External Quality Review Organizations (EQROs)

CMS and state government sponsored organizations to review the quality offered by Medicaid and CHIP managed care plans.

Submitted to the CCD Task Force on LTSS, April 12,2022 by: Clarke Ross, American Association on Health and Disability (AAHD). Member, NQF Measure Applications Partnership (MAP) Coordinating Committee (July 2021-present). Member of NQF committees since 2012, including workgroup on persons dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid (July 2012-July 2017). Member, CQMC.