

Improvements at a glance



The Measure Applications Partnership (MAP) provides input to HHS on measurement issues for federal health programs, with a focus on how these programs assess the quality of healthcare. This work ensures that federal health programs measure important aspects of clinical care and gauge what can improve people's health. When MAP's process was established by law, its work was concentrated between December 1 and February 1 each year, during which time it reviews several hundred potential measures for approximately 20 federal health programs, engages almost 90 organizations and 150 individuals in deliberations, and receives hundreds of public comments.

To improve the process for this concentrated effort, NQF undertook an improvement effort in areas identified by feedback from MAP members, external stakeholders, and NQF staff. This document summarizes several major improvements resulting from that effort to streamline the work, improve the process for those involved in deliberations, and strengthen the deliverables.

Continuously Improving MAP

STREAMLINING ITS PROCESS

BETTER ENGAGING MAP MEMBERS AND THE PUBLIC

STRENGTHENING MAP'S GUIDANCE ON MEASURES AND THEIR USE

EXPANDED OPPORTUNITIES TO GATHER PUBLIC FEEDBACK

To encourage early and broader public input, NQF staff has formalized a process where stakeholders can provide feedback immediately after HHS publicly releases the list of measures it is considering for federal programs that year. These public comments will be taken into account when MAP workgroups first review the measures under consideration. Additionally, there will be another opportunity for public input on the individual measures and broader measurement guidance for federal programs. These comments will be considered by the MAP Coordinating Committee when it approves the final decisions on measures and strategic guidance to the programs.

EASIER ACCESS TO INFORMATION THROUGH FOCUSED DELIVERABLES

When deliberating about measures for potential use in federal health programs, NQF identifies broader issues for each program, such as whether the program's metrics help the program achieve its goals, implementation challenges, and unintended consequences. This is one of the ways in which NQF adds strategic value and captures the expertise of the multistakeholder group. In the past, all NQF findings were bundled into one final report, and they will now be separated to make it easier for readers to find the programmatic guidance and individual measure analysis most applicable to their needs.