



PQA Value Set Redesign FAQs

What are PQA Value Sets?

PQA Value Sets are lists of codes and corresponding terms that define specific medications and other clinical concepts. Examples include National Drug Codes (NDCs), ICD-10, SNOMED CT. The PQA Value Sets are needed to calculate PQA measures as specified in the PQA Measure Manual.

Why were the value sets redesigned?

From emails into our technical assistance mailbox to meetings with our member organizations, we frequently received comments and questions about our value sets and identified an opportunity to improve their ease of use. From this feedback, PQA learned that the frequent changes to the structure of the files (e.g., adding new columns, name changes to columns or tabs) can cause many problems and that communication of these changes as well as documentation around use of the files could be improved.

What changes can we expect?

Some of the key changes are listed below:

- By identifying a common structure for our value sets, PQA staff were able to consolidate the data into just a few files. Below is a description for each of the four files.
 - *Measures*: Links the measures and medication tables in the specifications to the value sets.
 - *Value Sets – Medications*: Includes all data for the various medication related value sets including codes (e.g., NDC, Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System [HCPCS]), ingredients, strengths, applicable from/thru dates, and other measure-specific attributes.
 - *Value Sets – Other*: Includes other codes (e.g., ICD-10, SNOMED CT), applicable from/thru dates, and other measure-specific attributes.
 - *Data Dictionary*: Describes columns, data types, allowable values, and other information related to the files.
- Data were reorganized to minimize the need for changes to the structure of the files in order to accommodate changes in the data.
 - For example, the addition of new target drugs for the Proportion of Days' Covered (PDC) measures will create additional rows, instead of columns.
- Columns were removed, such as therapeutic categories that were included only for informational purposes.
- The columns for obsolete date and recycled NDC flag were replaced with from and thru dates.
 - The from and thru dates should be used to exclude prescription claims where the NDC is not applicable for the date of service, avoiding drug misidentification. The from and thru dates are derived from the FDA marketing dates, Medi-Span inactive dates, and FDB obsolete dates.
- Value sets will be available as a pipe delimited text file, in addition to Excel.
- A user guide was developed that describes the sources, methodology, and contents of the files.

When will these changes go into effect?

The changes to the value sets will be implemented in January 2020.

How do I learn more about these changes?

If you have additional questions, please contact MeasureUse@PQAalliance.org.

Last Update: 10/30/2019