PQA Measure Lifecycle

Version 5.0

Overview

PQA uses a systematic, transparent, and consensus-based lifecycle process to conceptualize, specify, test, refine, endorse, and maintain measures of medication-use quality in the domains of Appropriate Use, Safety, Adherence, and Medication Management Services. PQA's measure lifecycle aligns with the CMS Measures Management System: Blueprint Measure Lifecycle, a "gold standard" process that includes standard criteria for evaluating measures based upon importance, scientific acceptability, feasibility, and usability.

Key aspects of PQA's measure lifecycle include:

- ✓ **Measure Concept Advisory Groups**, appointed and convened as needed, to advise PQA during measure conceptualization. The groups are composed of individuals with clinical, measurement, and measure use expertise that is directly applicable to the concepts being considered.
- ✓ **Technical Expert Panels**, composed of relevant subject matter experts to address key questions identified during feasibility testing and initial measure concept specification, including real-world and market-use situations. When specification is complete, the panel also completes a face validity assessment to evaluate the extent to which the measure captures the intended aspect of quality.
- ✓ **Data-driven, iterative approach**, which includes early testing to assess feasibility and to inform initial specifications as well as comprehensive testing to assess feasibility, validity, and reliability.
- ✓ **Public Comment Periods** to support transparency and broad stakeholder input throughout the process.
- ✓ **Quarterly Stakeholder Advisory Meetings**, open to all PQA members, to communicate updates on PQA's measure development work and receive broad stakeholder feedback.
- ✓ Integration of **patients** throughout the process to ensure measure development is informed by individuals with lived experience that relates to measures under development.

PQA members have numerous opportunities to participate in and influence decisions on measures throughout all phases of the measure lifecycle, including comment periods, stakeholder advisory meetings, measure testing, and measure endorsement and retirement voting, as well as the opportunity to self-nominate to serve on Measure Concept Advisory Groups, Technical Expert Panels, the Quality Metrics Expert Panel, the Measure Validity Panel, the Measure Update Panel, and additional ad hoc advisory groups.

A Holistic View: PQA's Measure Development Process within the Measure Lifecycle

Measure development is a critical part of the PQA Measure Lifecycle, which consists of the following phases:

- **Measure Conceptualization** – The goal of the measure conceptualization phase is to generate and prioritize a list of measure concepts to be developed. This ensures that PQA devotes resources to developing measures that are high-impact and address areas of need.
- **Measure Specification** – During the measure specification phase, the goal is to create and refine measure concept draft specifications that are ready to be tested.
- **Measure Testing** – The goal of measure testing is to apply the measure concept draft specifications to test data representative of the intended measure population to determine the measure concept's scientific acceptability.
- **Measure Endorsement** – After QMEP approval, the measure concept is then considered by PQA's membership for an endorsement vote. By the time a measure concept is approved by the QMEP to move forward for endorsement consideration, it has gone through PQA's consensus-based development process and is found to meet standard measure evaluation criteria.
- **Measure Use and Maintenance** – The measurement lifecycle does not end when a measure is endorsed. In addition to PQA's role as a measure developer, PQA is a measure steward. This entails responsibility for supporting measure use with technical assistance as well as completing measure maintenance activities to ensure that PQA measures remain current, appropriate, and impactful in light of new treatments coming to the market, the emergence of new clinical evidence or standards, or any other new developments that may necessitate updates or changes to PQA measures.

The end-product of measure development is an evidence-based, precisely specified, valid, reliable, feasible, and usable measure that is linked to national quality goals. Figure 1 shows a high-level view of the major activities involved in the measure lifecycle from conceptualization through measure maintenance and use. This figure represents the flexibility and interconnectedness of all phases of the measure lifecycle.

Figure 1. PQA Measure Lifecycle.