PQA Measure Development Process

Version 4.0

PQA periodically updates its Measure Development Process to improve its efficiency, flexibility and relevance for the current health care systems. This document summarizes new updates to the process that are being implemented in 2020.

Overview

PQA will continue to use a systematic, transparent, and consensus-based 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.

The goal of the update is to retain the unique benefits of PQA's traditional process while evolving to increase flexibility and productivity. The process will continue to be consensus- and evidence-based, as PQA evaluates measures against the following standard criteria: importance, scientific acceptability, feasibility, and usability.

Significant updates to the process include:

- ✓ Aligning PQA's process more closely with the **Blueprint for the CMS Measures Management System**, a "gold standard" process, which lends itself to a more flexible and iterative process.
- ✓ More frequent and open **Comment Periods** to support increased transparency and broader stakeholder input throughout the process.
- ✓ **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 implementation expertise that is directly applicable to the concepts being considered.
- ✓ **Earlier testing** for a more data-driven, iterative approach to assess feasibility and to inform initial specifications. This helps determine more quickly which measure concepts are likely to be successful. It is in addition to PQA's usual comprehensive testing conducted to assess feasibility, validity and reliability.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ Quarterly **Stakeholder Advisory Meetings**, open to all PQA members, to communicate updates on PQA's measure development work and receive broad stakeholder feedback.
- ✓ Greater 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 development. In addition to the updates listed above, PQA members will have opportunities to participate in additional panels (Measure Update Panel, Measure Validity Panel, Quality Metrics Expert Panel (QMEP) and Risk Adjustment Advisory Panel), in measure testing and in voting to endorse measures.

A Holistic View: PQA's Updated 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 initial specifications to produce a draft measure that is ready to be tested.
- **Measure Testing** – The goal of measure testing is to apply the measure specifications to test data representative of the intended measure population to determine the measure's scientific acceptability.
- **Measure Endorsement** – By the time a measure 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 PQA's measure criteria. The measure is then considered by PQA's membership for an endorsement vote.
- **Measure Implementation 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, which entails responsibility for supporting measures through implementation with outreach and education, supporting measure use with technical assistance, and measure maintenance to ensure that PQA measures remain current, appropriate and impactful in light of new treatments coming to the market or the emergence of new clinical guidelines and evidence.

The end-product of measure development is an evidence-based, precisely specified, valid, reliable, feasible, and useable measure that is linked to national quality goals. Figure 1 shows a high-level view of the major tasks involved in developing measures from conceptualization through measure implementation and maintenance. Of note, there is flexibility to adjust the sequence or carry out steps concurrently and iteratively. Further, the aim of the update is to improve flexibility so that new measures can be efficiently developed and implemented, without compromising scientific rigor and PQA member engagement.

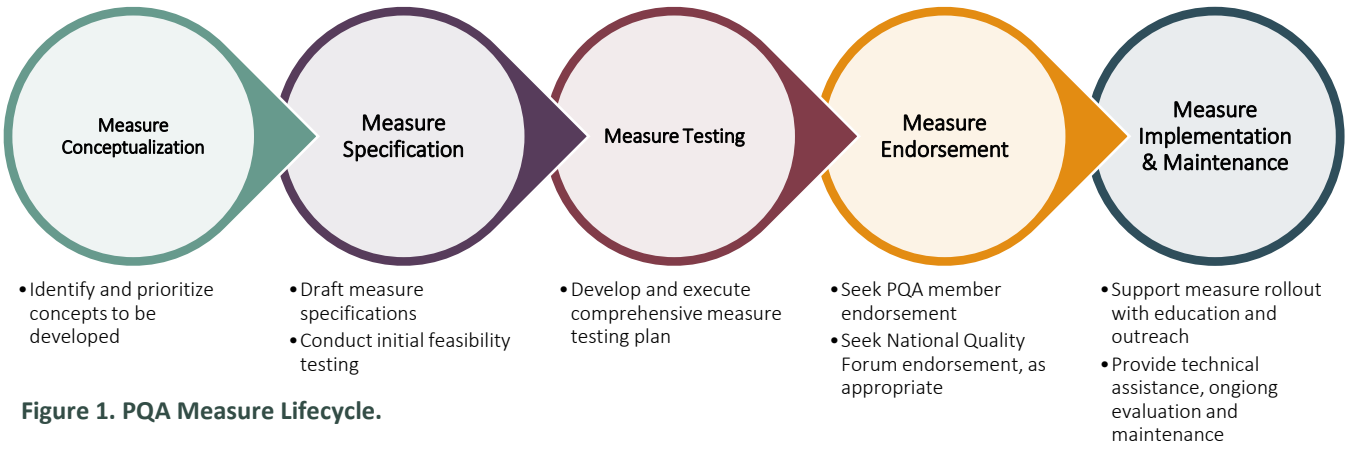

Figure 1. PQA Measure Lifecycle.