

PQA Measure Retirement Process

Version 5.0

Overview

As a measure steward, there may be situations where it is appropriate to consider retiring a PQA-endorsed measure. Potential reasons for considering measure retirement include:

- Evidence or clinical guidelines no longer support the original intent of the measure;
- Lack of use of a measure;
- Development of a new measure that better addresses the need; or
- Significant quality improvement and outcomes by providers and stakeholders has taken place, such that there no longer exists a margin for improvement (i.e., the measure has topped out)

PQA's measure retirement process includes:

1. Recommendation to Retire PQA-endorsed Measure
2. Measure Update Panel (MUP) Review
3. Quality Metrics Expert Panel (QMEP) Review
4. Comment Period and PQA Measure Endorsement and Retirement Virtual Meeting
5. Membership Vote

Recommendation to Retire PQA Measure

PQA staff, PQA members, or the public may recommend that a PQA-endorsed measure be retired. Recommendations must include a rationale. If applicable, measure users are asked to provide comment on the recommendation to retire the measure.

MUP Review

A proposal to retire the measure includes the recommendation, the rationale, user comments, the advantages and disadvantages of retiring the measure, and potential impact or unintended consequences. The proposal is presented to the MUP for discussion and vote. If the recommendation for measure retirement is approved by the MUP with a greater than 60% (of panel members voting yes or no) vote, the proposal is then presented to the QMEP for a vote.

QMEP Review

The MUP recommendation for retirement consideration, including the MUP vote and comments, rationale, user comments, advantages, and disadvantages of retiring the measure, and potential impact or unintended consequences, are presented to the QMEP for discussion and vote. The QMEP vote requires a greater than 60% (of panel members voting yes or no) approval to move the measure forward for retirement consideration by PQA membership.

Public Comment Period and PQA Measure Endorsement and Retirement Meeting

After the QMEP vote, a memo and Call for Comments is sent to PQA membership and relevant stakeholders. Following the 15-business day Public Comment Period, PQA staff host a PQA Measure Endorsement and Retirement meeting to review the recommendation to retire the measure and comments received from the comment period.

Membership Vote

Following the PQA Measure Endorsement and Retirement virtual meeting, PQA membership casts its vote for Measure Retirement noting their support (yes), opposition (no), or abstention. Each PQA member organization is able to vote once for each PQA-endorsed measure under retirement consideration. The voting process takes place electronically and lasts for 10 business days. A greater than 60% vote in support (of member organizations voting yes or no) is required for a measure to be retired. If the measure is retired, notice is sent to users of the measure, the measure specifications are removed from the PQA Measure Manual, and the measure's retirement is documented in the PQA Measure Concept Inventory. In general, value sets are not provided for retired measures.