



**CALL FOR MEASURES AND MEASURE CONCEPTS:
Perinatal and Reproductive Health Measures**

NQF is seeking fully developed and tested performance measures in the areas of perinatal and reproductive health, including pregnancy planning and contraception, care for women of reproductive age, pregnancy, childbirth, and post-partum and neonatal care.

NQF is particularly interested in measures:

- measures of intermediate clinical outcomes or longer term health outcomes, including complications;
- composite performance measures;
- measures that capture broad populations, including adolescents where applicable;
- measures that are harmonized with similar measures; and,
- measures that are sensitive to vulnerable populations, including racial/ethnic minorities; and Medicaid populations.

This project launched **October 16, 2015**. The final submission deadline is **February 16, 2016**.

BACKGROUND

Despite the fact that the US spends more on perinatal healthcare than any other health sector (\$111 billion in 2010), the US is ranked last in maternal outcomes among all industrialized nations. With nearly four million US births in 2014 and great disparities in care and outcomes among different racial and ethnic groups in the US, reproductive and perinatal healthcare are major topics of interest for quality measurement. This project seeks to identify and endorse performance measures for accountability and quality improvement that specifically address conditions, treatments, interventions, or procedures relating to reproductive health, pregnancy planning and contraception, pregnancy, childbirth, and post-partum and neonatal care.

Measures of interest to NQF for this project include: outcome measures; measures of patient engagement and shared decision-making; measures of appropriate use of medical procedures; patient safety measures, population health measures; and eMeasures. As part of this project, twenty four (24) NQF-endorsed measures that are due for maintenance of endorsement review will be re-evaluated against the most recent NQF measure evaluation criteria. Specific conditions and topics addressed by these endorsed measures include: cesarean section rates, early elective deliveries, maternal and newborn infection rates, access to prenatal and postpartum care, screening measures, and breastfeeding measures.

MEASURE CONCEPTS



In addition to soliciting fully-developed measures for consensus-based endorsement review, NQF is also soliciting measure concepts through [NQF’s Measure Inventory Pipeline](#). This pipeline will serve as an important source of information for HHS and other stakeholders on new measure development in the broader healthcare community. It will also enable NQF to track current and planned measure development to ensure early collaboration among developers to drive harmonization and alignment of measures.

In an effort to capture comprehensive information on measures in development, NQF seeks input on several variables including:

- measure description;
- numerator statement;
- denominator statement (target population);
- planned use,
- stage of development; and
- other relevant information.

Please note that the information entered through NQF’s Measure Inventory Pipeline will not be evaluated by the Standing Committee against the NQF Criteria. Submitted information will be catalogued by NQF and used to help inform the Standing Committee’s measure gaps discussion. NQF will also share the information with HHS to inform CMS’ Measure Inventory Pipeline, which is a reference for several stakeholders.

MEASURE SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

To submit a measure, please complete the following:

- [Measure Submission Form](#) Clicking on this link will redirect you to the webpage for this project, from which you can access the online measure submission form.
- [Measure Steward Agreement](#) Please note that no materials will be accepted without submission of a fully executed *Measure Steward Agreement Form*. All materials not meeting this requirement will be returned to the sender.

PROCESS PARTICIPATION

Measure developers are strongly encouraged to attend (either in person or via web/conference call) the following scheduled meeting dates to represent their measure(s) and respond to questions from the Committee and members of the public.

Scheduled meeting dates

Meeting	Date/Time
Steering Committee Orientation Webinar	March 16, 2016 from 2:00 – 4:00pm EST



(2 hours)	
Workgroup Webinars (2 hours)	April 13, 2016 from 3:00 – 5:00pm EST April 14, 2016 from 12:00 – 2:00pm EST April 15, 2016 from 2:00 – 4:00pm EST April 20, 2016 from 1:00 – 3:00pm EST
In-person meeting (2 days in Washington, DC)	May 2, 2016 – May 3, 2016
Post-Meeting Webinar (2 hours)	May 9, 2016 from 1:00pm – 3:00pm EST
Post Draft Report Comment Webinar (2 hours)	July 26, 2016 from 3:00pm – 5:00pm EST

Materials must be submitted using the online submission form by 6:00 pm, ET on February 16. If you have any questions, please contact, Suzanne Theberge or Nadine Allen, at 202-783-1300 or via e-mail at Perinatal@qualityforum.org.

Conditions for Consideration:

- The measure owner/steward verifies there is an identified responsible entity and process to maintain and update the measure on a schedule that is commensurate with the rate of clinical innovation, but at least every three years.¹
- The intended use of the measure includes both public accountability and quality improvement.
- The measure is fully specified and [tested for reliability and validity](#). Measures that are not tested will not be accepted in this project.
- The measure developer/steward attests that [harmonization](#) with related measures and issues with competing measures have been considered and addressed, as appropriate.
- The requested measure submission information is complete and responsive to the questions so that all the information needed to evaluate all [criteria](#) is provided.

Submission Guidance:

- [Developer Guidebook](#):
 - A Developer Guidebook as has been created to assist developers in the measure submission and evaluation process. The Guidebook contains all the information developers need to know when submitting a measure to NQF.
- ICD-10-CM/PCS:
 - Beginning October 1, 2015 measures specified with administrative claims data must submit a set of ICD-9-CM and ICD-10-CM/PCS codes. An excel file with the full listing of ICD-9 and ICD-10 codes, with code definitions and a conversion table (if there is one) is required. A statement of intent for the selection of the ICD-10 codes and a description of the process used to identify the ICD-10 codes is also required. Click [here](#) for further information on this requirement.

¹ Measure stewards must execute a [Measure Steward Agreement](#) with NQF.



- eMeasures:
 - Must be specified in the Health Quality Measures Format (HQMF) and use the Quality Data Model (QDM) and value sets vetted through the National Library of Medicine's Value Set Authority Center (VSAC);
 - Review the [current measure evaluation criteria and guidance](#)
- Composite measures:
 - Please notify project staff if you plan to submit a composite measure

Technical Assistance

NQF project staff will provide technical assistance to measure developers at any time during the measure submission process up to the submission deadline. NQF strongly encourages developers to take advantage of the technical assistance offer in advance of the submission deadline to ensure the strength of measure submissions. Contact the project team with any questions about the criteria, how to answer the questions in the form, any technical issues with the online submission process... or anything else!

MEASURE SUBMISSION COMPLETENESS CHECKLIST

- Measure steward agreement or concept agreement is completed and signed
- All conditions for submission are met.
- There are responses in all fields on measure submission form (MSF) unless a particular item is not applicable as indicated in the item instructions.
- Attachments include: eMeasure specifications (S.2a) if applicable; data dictionary/code list (S.2b); Evidence and Measure Testing attachments.
- All URLs are active and accurate.
- Harmonization/competing measures: Did you present a plan for harmonization of the related/competing measures identified by staff during early identification/triage or justify submitting competing or non-harmonized measures? (see Harmonization process in the [Developer Guidebook](#)).
- Paired measures should be submitted on separate forms.
- An eMeasure must be specified in HQMF format, using QDM and value sets vetted through the VSAC.
- Composite performance measures: responses to the composite measure items are included.
- Both ICD-9 and ICD-10 codes are included

RESOURCES FOR MEASURE DEVELOPERS AND STEWARDS

For more details on measure submission and evaluation, please see:

- [Submitting Standards Web Page](#)
- [Measure Evaluation Criteria and Guidance PDF](#)



NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM

- [Guidance on Quality Performance Measure Construction](#)
- [Endorsement Maintenance Policy](#)
- [What Good Looks Like - Measure Submission Examples](#)
- [Composite Measure Evaluation Guidance Report](#)
- [Patient Reported Outcomes Report](#)
- [eMeasure Feasibility Report](#)
- [Reserve Status Policy](#)