



The Quality Data Model (QDM) provides measure developers with a structure or “grammar” for defining quality measures in a standardized format. With the QDM, measure developers can consistently and uniformly express clinical concepts within quality measures.

## The Need for a Common Language

Performance measures are becoming more complex as they increasingly span clinical settings and episodes of care. While new measures present a more complete picture of care, it is essential that measures and data supporting measure development and reporting be comprehensive and comparable across the providers and sites of care.

By providing a standard structure and set of key categories and concepts for use across performance measures, the QDM allows measure developers to clearly articulate the information necessary to express measures. More importantly, the QDM helps measure developers, vendors, researchers, and electronic health records speak the same language, and ensure that terms and concepts are uniformly interpreted and understood by the broader healthcare field.

Quality measurement is increasingly moving to an electronic platform. As it migrates, the QDM also provides this same structure and common language as the backbone of the [Measure Authoring Tool](#) (MAT) – a web-based tool for creating standardized eMeasures.

## Advancing Quality Improvement Initiatives

The QDM will evolve as different types of measures and measure concepts are developed. NQF will annually release new versions of the QDM based on public feedback and input from Federal Advisory Committees, NQF members, and clinical and quality improvement stakeholders. Over time, widespread collective use of the QDM and the MAT will drive development of more precise measures, and standardized, comprehensive capture and reporting of healthcare quality measures. They will

also further national goals of making care safer, more affordable, and better coordinated.

## Better Measures, Better Data, Better Care

Without good, precise, and comparable data, measure developers cannot build the most effective quality measures, and healthcare systems cannot accurately measure and assess performance. The QDM is designed to support more accurate and comparable data collection, and in turn help move the healthcare system towards better, less burdensome performance measurement and more appropriate and evidence-based care delivery.

To learn more about the QDM, visit the [NQF website](#). For specific inquiries, please contact [QDM@qualityforum.org](mailto:QDM@qualityforum.org).

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The National Quality Forum (NQF) is a nonprofit organization that operates under a three-part mission to improve the quality of American healthcare by:

- Building consensus on national priorities and goals for performance improvement and working in partnership to achieve them;
- Endorsing national consensus standards for measuring and publicly reporting on performance; and
- Promoting the attainment of national goals through education and outreach programs.