Quality Positioning System
POWERED BY THE NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM
BETA

QPS: What You Need to Know

> **NOTE:** We need your help to improve QPS. Please look at this BETA version, tell us what you like, and how to make it better. Submit comments at
> www.qualityforum.org/qps.

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Using QPS

What is the Quality Positioning System?

The Quality Positioning System (QPS), currently in beta format, is a Web-based tool that enables anyone to find measures endorsed by the National Quality Forum (NQF) — and then to work with the measures — quickly and easily. Users can select NQF-endorsed® measures to create their own lists or 'portfolios,' then share portfolios with others, and view and copy portfolios created by others.

Why was QPS created?

Quality improvement requires that the right combination of measures be correctly applied. Yet, many struggle to find the right measures to meet their needs. With support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the National Quality Forum created QPS so all healthcare stakeholders can more easily access NQF-endorsed measures as well as learn from others' measurement or public reporting efforts.

Why does QPS include only NQF-endorsed measures?

NQF is only able to vouch for measures endorsed through our well-established process. Every NQF-endorsed measure reflects rigorous review of the evidence that supports it, periods for public comment, and consensus among a wide range of stakeholders on the measure's endorsement.

Where can I find other NQF-endorsed products?

To find NQF-endorsed frameworks, practices, serious reportable events, or other items besides quality measures, please go to the NQF site.

Can I view all NQF-endorsed measures?

Yes. QPS contains all NQF-endorsed measures. Click on the "Find Measures" in the navigation bar on the QPS homepage. From there you can view all measures, arranged by title, measure number, the measure's steward, and date of last update.

Is information in QPS copyrighted?

You may use any information you find in QPS for non-commercial applications, including reports of performance data. If you wish to use the measure for another purpose, please contact the measure steward. NQF is not responsible for the application or outcomes of measures.

Maintaining Measure Information

Is the information in QPS up-to-date?

QPS automatically reflects a measure's updated status. Every three years NQF re-evaluates endorsed measures against rigorous criteria and reviews the measure alongside newly submitted (but not yet endorsed) measures. For more information, as well as annual updates to measure details and ad hoc reviews of measures, go to the Measuring Performance section of the NQF web site at http://www.qualityforum.org/Measuring_Performance/Measuring_Performance.aspx.

How is the NQF calendar for endorsement and review determined?

NQF considers measures for both endorsement and review on a standardized cycle for 22 topic areas, such as cardiology, neurology, perinatology, etc. A measure or topic area can move to the front of the queue if warranted by urgent national needs or compelling new evidence about a commonly chosen measure. To learn more, go to the Measuring Performance section of the NQF web site at http://www.qualityforum.org/Measuring_Performance/Measuring_Performance.aspx.

Finding Measures

How do I find measures to meet my needs?

There are many ways to search for NQF-endorsed measures: by name, number, or keyword. Or use the specific search categories to find measures by condition, care setting, data source, target population, and other topics.

What information is available on each measure?

Typically, QPS will provide a measure's description, what's in its numerator and denominator, and whether it involves risk adjustment. You can see when the measure was endorsed, the measure steward, its status for endorsement review, whether an eMeasure is available, and which portfolios created by others include that measure.

Can I compare measures?

Yes. Using the 'Compare' section of the tool, you can select up to three measures to compare their key elements, such as data sources, age ranges, and timeframes.

How do I get more information about a measure?

Each measure information page contains contact information for the steward or developer of that measure to help you dig deeper.

Utilizing Lists or 'Portfolios'

What is a portfolio?

A portfolio is a customized list of NQF-endorsed measures created by anyone using QPS. You can create a portfolio then keep it private to function as a personal worksheet, share it with specific people, or publish it so any QPS user can see it too.

How many portfolios can I develop?

You can create as many portfolios as you want.

Does NQF endorse portfolios?

No. Portfolios in QPS are not reviewed or endorsed by NQF.

Can I share my portfolios?

Yes. QPS allows you to share your portfolios with a few people or make them available to anyone browsing in QPS to enable people across the country (and the world!) to learn from your experiences and ideas.

Can I compare portfolios?

Yes. You can compare the contents of up to three portfolios to see which measures are similar.

Can I modify someone else's portfolio?

No. However, you can create a copy of any published portfolio, rename it for your own use, and then modify it to fit your needs.

Is there a way to keep track of updates to portfolios?

Yes. When you subscribe to any published portfolio in QPS, you can opt to receive weekly e-mail updates whenever a change occurs, such as measures being added or removed, or the endorsement status of a measure in the portfolio changes. For any portfolio you create, you'll automatically receive these e-mail updates. Creating your own portfolio is a great way to stay current on the endorsement status of specific measures.

Searching Tips

How did NQF decide how to classify measures for searching?

When measures are submitted to NQF for endorsement or updates, measure stewards tag the measures to categories. Then NQF reviews their suggestions for appropriateness and may make changes to achieve consistency.

Are there definitions for the search categories and other terms in QPS?

Yes. Check the QPS Glossary.

What if QPS search results say "No results were found"?

QPS uses many approaches to find measures in response to any search.   If QPS returns no results, try searching other categories or using a different search term. However, it is possible that there are no measures that meet your search criteria.   The state of measurement is evolving, so it is possible that you have identified a gap in measurement or endorsement that needs attention. If you do, please let us know by submitting feedback through QPS.

Can I export or print my search results or portfolios?

Yes. You can print your measure search results and portfolios or export them into several formats (e.g., Excel, PDF, Word).

Have feedback? More questions?

For more information, go to even more Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on the QPS site or send us your comments and questions through QPS at http://www.qualityforum.org/QPS/ContactUs.aspx.

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