

# Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Patient-Reported Outcomes

## WHAT IS THE PROJECT?

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is a chronic, progressive inflammatory lung disease that affects millions of Americans. Advances in treatment allow patients to remain active and improve functional status and quality of life for many patients. Yet, quality of care varies, and many patients experience high symptom burden and anxiety over symptom exacerbation and irreversible lung damage. Thus, there is a need for COPD quality measures that evaluate quality of life, physical functioning, and other patient-reported outcomes (PRO).

**This NQF Measure Incubator® project facilitated the development of a performance measure for COPD that reflects the outcomes that are most important to individuals with COPD and uses information collected directly from those patients (i.e., patient-reported outcomes or PROs).**

## MEASURE DEVELOPMENT AND TESTING

Working in collaboration with the NQF Measure Incubator, **MN Community Measurement (MNCM)** convened a multistakeholder workgroup in 2016 to draft specifications for a PRO measure concept for persons with COPD. The workgroup recognized the importance of routine assessments of PROs coupled with timely clinical action to improve patient care. Participants recommended a PRO performance measure (PRO-PM) that assesses low, stable or improved health status using one of two COPD-specific PRO measures (PROM)—**Clinical COPD Questionnaire (CCQ)** or **Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Assessment Test (CAT)**. Working through a consensus-based process, **MN Community Measurement (MNCM)** gathered broad stakeholder feedback, including input compiled by **PatientsLikeMe®** from over 2,500 patients with COPD.

MNCM began measure testing in early 2018. Through testing, MNCM piloted data collection with four practices of diverse size and geography. Also, MNCM

explored various risk adjustment approaches along with questions identified through public comment (e.g., whether a COPD diagnosis must be confirmed by spirometry testing).

NQF engaged a broad-based stakeholder group in this Measure Incubator project, including individuals with COPD, pulmonologists, primary care providers, health services researchers, and measure developers.

## WHAT IS THE ENVISIONED OUTCOME?

The multistakeholder workgroup and public commenters emphasized the need for a measure that facilitated critical patient/provider communication and focused on those symptoms that were most important to patients. MNCM completed development and testing of the COPD PRO-PM in January 2020. MNCM is exploring additional refinements and testing as a precursor to potential submission to the **Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS)**.

NQF closed out this project in March 2020 after achieving the significant milestones above.

**The resulting measure will improve quality of care in COPD by evaluating actionable, patient-centered outcomes that reflect the voice of the patient.**

NQF is delivering this project through the Measure Incubator with financial support from **GlaxoSmithKline (GSK)**. In accordance with the **NQF Measure Incubator Conflict of Interest Principles**, GSK has not influenced the outcomes and activities associated with this project.