



CMS Measures Management System (MMS) Hub

QuickStart Guide to Measure Development

June 2026



ABOUT THE CMS MMS HUB

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) launched the Measures Management System (MMS) Hub as the go-to resource for developing and maintaining health care quality measures. The CMS MMS Hub provides detailed information about the measure lifecycle, opportunities to get involved in measurement, and educational resources. For an overview of CMS MMS Hub content, watch this [brief animated video](#).

Site Contents

The CMS MMS Hub features five main menu items: About Quality Measurement, Blueprint Measure Lifecycle, Tools & Resources, Get Involved, and News & Events. For a complete overview of webpages, view the [site map](#). In the next few sections, we will outline the content included within these five menu items and their sub-pages.

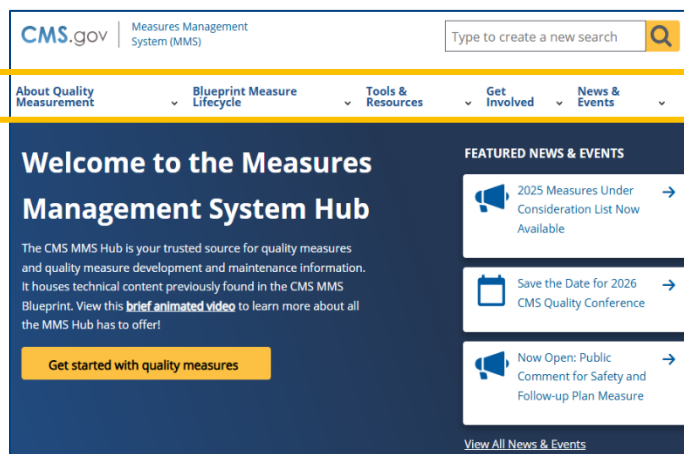


Figure 1. Screenshot of the MMS Hub homepage showing the main menu items across the top of the screen

ABOUT QUALITY MEASUREMENT



This section provides foundational information on quality measures for interested parties new to health care quality measures. This area of the site explains what quality measures are, why they are important and how they fit into CMS initiatives, and the measure type categories used in health care.

- [About MMS](#) provides an overview of the CMS Measures Management System and how it achieves the goals of educating and promoting the use of quality measures.
- [New to Measures](#) includes frequently asked questions about quality measures and descriptions of roles in measure development and maintenance.
- [Types of Measures](#) describes the primary categories of measures and available resources to explore further.
- [Quality Measures at CMS](#) provides an overview of how CMS uses quality measures in various programs to drive improvement in healthcare.

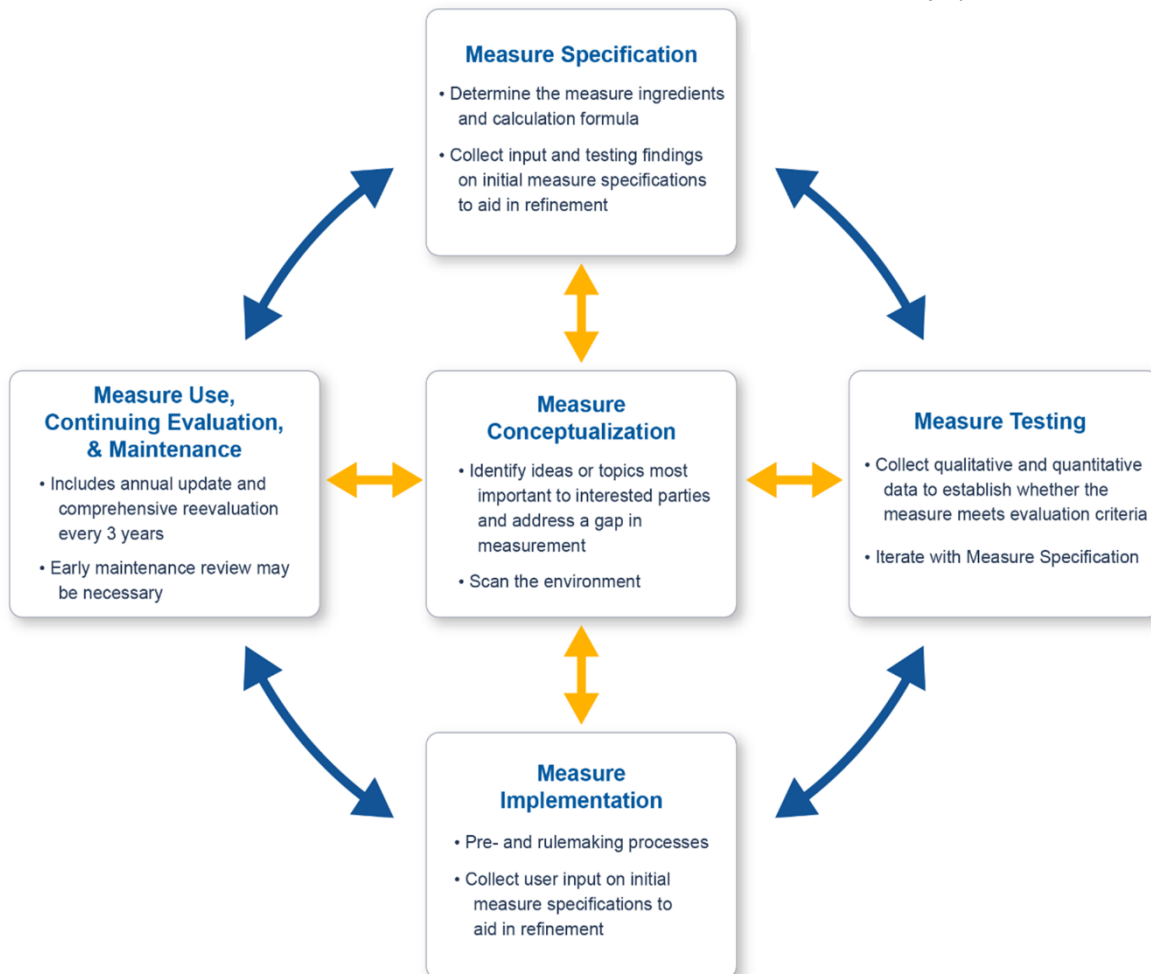
This section provides a comprehensive overview of the standardized process that CMS uses to develop, implement, and maintain quality measures. The lifecycle ensures all measures are evidence-based, scientifically sound, and aligned with CMS’ goals for improving health care quality and outcomes. This area of the MMS Hub is primarily intended for measure developers.

The Measure Lifecycle graphic provides a high-level view of the major activities involved in developing measures from the initial concept through implementation and maintenance.

Throughout the Measure Lifecycle, CMS encourages measure developers to engage with a variety of interested parties, including patients, family members, and caregivers. This engagement helps developers balance a variety of perspectives and interests, leading to better clinical outcomes for all. Learn more about [interested party engagement](#).

In the next section, we will take a closer look at each of the Measure Lifecycle stages.

Figure 2. Depiction of the Blueprint Measure Lifecycle on the MMS Hub



ABOUT THE MEASURE LIFECYCLE STAGES

The Measure Lifecycle stages follow a general sequence, moving from defining and refining a measure to testing, implementing, and maintaining one. This process is highly iterative. It allows developers the flexibility to perform stages concurrently or to revisit stages as needed.



Measure Conceptualization

The [Measure Conceptualization](#) stage of the Measure Lifecycle involves identifying measurement needs, gathering evidence, and defining the measure concept.

Key Activities

- Conduct an [environmental scan](#)
- [Analyze empirical data](#), as appropriate
- Evaluate information collected during the environmental scan and empirical data analysis
- Conduct a measurement gap analysis to identify areas for new measure development
- [Justify the creation of new measures](#)
- Apply [measure evaluation criteria](#)
- Prepare an initial list of measures or measure topics



Measure Specification

The [Measure Specification](#) stage involves developing technical specifications, such as measure logic, data sources, and calculation methods.

Key Activities

- [Define the data source](#)
- [Develop specifications](#) and definitions
- [Specify the codes](#) and code systems
- Consider [risk adjustment](#) and risk stratification
- [Construct the data protocol](#)
- [Document the measures](#)



Measure Testing

During the [Measure Testing](#) stage, the developer conducts scientific acceptability testing (e.g., reliability, validity) and feasibility assessments to ensure the measure works as intended. This is also when the developer prepares for CMS Consensus-Based Entity (CBE) endorsement process (if applicable).

Key Activities

- [Develop a testing work plan](#) for how to test the measure
- [Implement the testing work plan](#)
- Analyze the test results
- Refine the measure by incorporating interested party inputs
- Retest the refined measure
- Document adherence [to measure evaluation criteria](#)



Measure Implementation

The [Measure Implementation](#) stage involves CMS pre- and rulemaking processes (measure selection) and measure rollout. It includes all activities associated with moving a measure from development into an active, in-use state, including CBE endorsement processes, measure selection processes, and measure rollout.

Key Activities

- Submit a measure to CMS Measures Under Consideration (MUC) Entry/Review Information Tool ([CMS MERIT](#)) for consideration by CMS Medicare programs as part of the [pre-rulemaking process](#) (if applicable)
- Support [measure rollout](#) efforts
- [Submit a measure for endorsement consideration](#) by the CMS CBE



Measure Use, Continuing Evaluation, and Maintenance

The [Measure Use, Continuing Evaluation, and Maintenance](#) stage involves the ongoing measure evaluation and necessary updates to ensure measures remains relevant, accurate, and aligned with current clinical guidelines and program needs.

Key Activities

- [Conduct data collection and ongoing surveillance](#)
- Respond to questions about the measure
- Produce preliminary reports
- Monitor and analyze measure rates and audit findings
- Perform [measure maintenance](#) or [early maintenance review](#), when appropriate
- Provide information CMS can use in measure priorities planning

TOOLS & RESOURCES

About Quality Measurement

Blueprint Measure Lifecycle

Tools & Resources

Get Involved

News & Events

Here you'll find links to MMS tools such as the CMS Measures Under Consideration Entry/Review Information Tool (CMS MERIT) and the CMS Measures Inventory Tool (CMIT), as well as other CMS tools used throughout the Measure Lifecycle. This section also includes pre-rulemaking resources, recordings of past educational webinars, supplemental materials, and templates.

- [Supplemental materials](#) provide in-depth information on select topics. While some content is being integrated into web pages, several resources remain standalone.
- [Templates](#) help standardize processes like business case development.
- [Educational and Pre-Rulemaking Resources](#) offer trainings, webinars, and guidance for measure developers, interested parties, and the public.
- [MMS](#) and [CMS Tools](#) provide support measure developers in the different stages of the Measure Lifecycle.

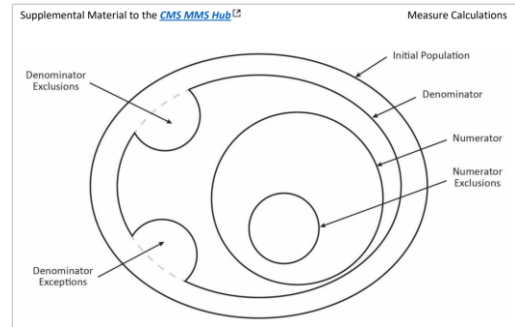


Figure 3. Illustration from the Measure Calculations tool in Supplemental Materials

GET INVOLVED

About Quality Measurement

Blueprint Measure Lifecycle

Tools & Resources

Get Involved

News & Events

Learn how to participate in measure development through public comment opportunities and [technical expert panels \(TEPs\)](#). CMS measure developers also post calls for TEP participants and announce open [public comments](#) here.

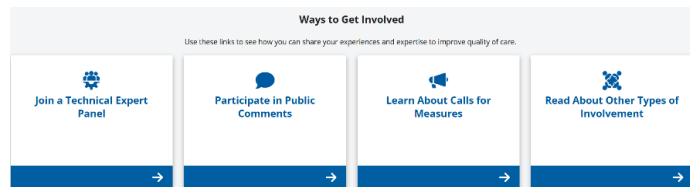


Figure 4. Screenshot of How to Get Involved page

NEWS & EVENTS

About Quality Measurement

Blueprint Measure Lifecycle

Tools & Resources

Get Involved

News & Events

The News & Events section of the MMS Hub features updates, industry news, and partner announcements. Educational opportunities, such as MMS Information Sessions and other public webinars, are promoted in this section. CMS measure developers may work with their contracting officer representative (COR) to request announcements be published on the site.

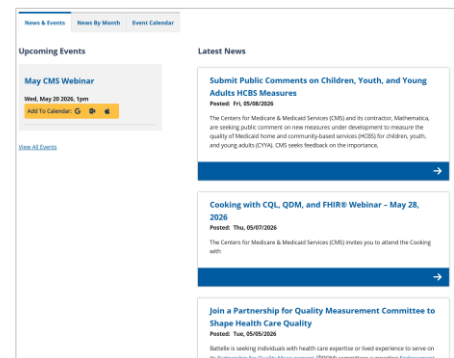


Figure 5. Screenshot of News & Events page

Functionality

SITE SEARCH

The MMS Hub features functionality such as site search and hover-over definitions to make it easier to access and understand measure topics.

To search, enter one or more keywords. For phrase searching, surround the keywords in double quotes. This searches for the quoted phrase, matching results with those words in the same order.

*Note stemming is enabled, which allows for similar results. For example, phrases containing the word “measuring” will also return items containing the word “measure”.

Search results will appear in a tabbed display. To filter the results to only technical content, select the “Blueprint Content” tab. This will filter items such as news, events, and engagement opportunities.

Examples	Results
technical expert	All pages and documents containing either the word technical or expert. Words containing both terms will be ranked higher.
“measure implementation”	All pages and documents containing the phrase “measure implementation”.
“meaningful measures initiative”	All pages and documents containing the phrase “meaningful measures” AND the phrase “measures initiative”. Phrase searching is bigram-based which only considers whether each <i>pair</i> of quoted words is consecutive, not whether an entire 3+ word phrase is consecutive.

HOVER-OVER DEFINITIONS

Throughout the site, you will encounter dotted underlined terms. To quickly access a definition for these terms, hover your cursor over the word and a small pop-up will appear. This will provide a brief explanation, giving a definition for the term within the context of the page. This is designed to provide you with instant clarification, making your experience more efficient and informative. View the [glossary](#) to see all defined terms.

The screenshot shows a web page with three tabs: 'Overview', 'Information Gathering', and 'Business Case Development'. The main heading is 'Conduct an Environmental Scan'. On the left, there is a vertical navigation menu with items: 'Overview', 'Conduct an Environmental Scan' (highlighted), 'Analyze Data & Conduct Gap Analysis', 'Respecified Measures', and 'Justify the Creation of New Measures'. The main content area contains a definition: 'The environmental scan is essential in building the rationale for a quality measure. A The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act defined a quality measure as "a standard for measuring the performance and improvement of population health or of health plans, providers of services, and other clinicians in the delivery of health care services." (Pub. L. 111-148, 931)'. Below this, it mentions 'six domains of quality, outlined in [Crossing the Quality Chasm \(2001\)](#) which include safety, timeliness, efficiency, effectiveness, equitability, and patient centeredness. Also refer to the [Meaningful Measures Initiative](#), which identifies the priorities for quality measurement and improvement.' At the bottom, there is a button that says 'Click to expand the (static) image.'

Figure 63. Example of hover-over definition functionality

CONTACT MMS SUPPORT

If you have MMS Hub questions, content suggestions, or enhancement requests, please contact the MMS Support Team at MMSSupport@battelle.org.