

Electronic Clinical Quality Measure (eCQM) Development and Maintenance for Eligible Clinicians (EC) Technical Expert Panel (TEP) Charter

Project Title: Electronic Clinical Quality Measure (eCQM) Development and Maintenance for Eligible Clinicians (EC)

TEP Expected Time Commitment and Dates:

The technical expert panel (TEP) will advise the American Institutes for Research (AIR) and its partners over the course of the project. The project has been funded for one base period of 12 months with four optional 12-month periods of performance. As part of the commitment to the TEP, panelists will be asked to attend up to four meetings per contract year for a minimum 2-year commitment between January 2025 and July 2029. All meetings will occur via teleconference, and meeting materials will be distributed in advance of each meeting to allow adequate time to review prior to the meeting.

Project Overview:

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) contracted AIR and its partners to develop, electronically specify, and maintain eCQMs for eligible clinicians for potential consideration and use in CMS quality programs. The contract name is Electronic Clinical Quality Measure (eCQM) Development and Maintenance for Eligible Clinicians (EC). The contract number is 75FCMC18D0027. As part of its measure development process, AIR convenes groups of stakeholders who contribute direction and thoughtful input to the measure developer during measure development and maintenance.

Project Objectives:

The primary measure development objectives of this project include:

- Identifying, developing, specifying, and testing new eCQMs for potential implementation in CMS quality programs that align with CMS quality goals
- Evaluating and preparing the measures for consideration and potential endorsement by the CMS Consensus-Based Entity
- Maintaining CMS-stewarded eCQMs, CQMs, and/or Medicare Part B Claims measures in the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS)

Technical Expert Panel (TEP) Objectives:

As part of its measure development and maintenance process, AIR and its partners (the project team) request input from a broad group of eCQM stakeholders to evaluate and provide guidance on the selection and development of eCQMs through participation in the project's TEP.

TEP Requirements:

A TEP of approximately 10–15 individuals will convene periodically to provide input on the prioritization and development of eCQMs that support CMS's quality program goals throughout the development lifecycle. The TEP will be composed of individuals with different areas of expertise and perspectives, including but not limited to patients, caregivers, patient advocates, clinicians, electronic health record vendor representatives, quality improvement experts, and health system representatives. Patients can provide unique and essential input on quality measures based on their own experiences and perspectives. A well-balanced representation of stakeholders on the TEP will help to ensure the consideration of key perspectives in the measure selection and development processes.

Scope of Responsibilities:

The TEP will provide input to the project team to aid in prioritizing and developing eCQMs that will be considered for implementation in CMS quality programs. The TEP will also provide feedback about potential changes to existing EC eCQM measures stewarded by CMS. The TEP's specific duties include the following:

- Review, prioritize, and evaluate eCQM measure concepts for development and maintenance. Dimensions for prioritization could include:
 - Alignment of concept with quality program goals
 - Technical feasibility
 - Workflow feasibility, including patient and provider burden considerations
 - Measurement gaps
 - Quality of evidence about measure concepts and clinical actions that can be taken to improve measured outcomes
 - Importance to providers
 - Importance to patients
 - Alignment with existing (competing) measures
 - Potential for unintended consequences
- Review and provide guidance on the measures in response to feedback from expert work groups, public comments, and testing results regarding eCQM feasibility, usability, validity, and reliability.

Guiding Principles:

Participation as a TEP member is voluntary and the measure developer records the participant's input in the meeting minutes, which the measure developer will summarize in a report that they may disclose to the public. If a participant has chosen to disclose private, personal data, then related material and communications are not covered by patient-provider confidentiality. Patient/caregiver participants may elect to keep their names confidential in public documents. TEP organizers will answer any questions about confidentiality.

All potential TEP members must disclose any significant financial interest or other relationships that may influence their perceptions or judgment. It is unethical to conceal (or fail to disclose) conflicts of interest. However, there is no intent for the disclosure requirement to prevent individuals with particular perspectives or strong points of view from serving on the TEP. The intent of full disclosure is to inform the measure developer, other TEP members, and CMS about the source of TEP members' perspectives and how that might affect discussions or recommendations.

The TEP will provide input throughout the measure development and maintenance process. The project team will consider the TEP's recommendations and convey those recommendations to CMS; however, the project team and CMS will ultimately make decisions about measure selection and development. The project team will write and share summary reports of TEP proceedings after meetings to highlight discussions and document decisions.

The project team will ensure confidentiality in TEP reports by summarizing discussion topics and removing the names of TEP members who make specific comments during the meetings.

Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings:

Members of the TEP will meet up to four times in a 12-month period via webinar. The TEP is intended to be a standing committee that meets throughout the duration of the Electronic Clinical Quality Measure (eCQM) Development and Maintenance for Eligible Clinicians (EC) project, which has been funded for a 12-month period with four additional 12-month optional periods of performance.

Date Approved by TEP:

TBD

TEP Membership:

TBD