Clinical Quality Measures Basics comprises public domain material from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

Clinical Quality Measures Basics

Clinical quality measures, or CQMs, are tools that help measure and track the quality of health care services provided by eligible professionals, eligible hospitals and critical access hospitals (CAHs) within our health care system. These measures use data associated with providers' ability to deliver high-quality care or relate to long term goals for quality health care. CQMs measure many aspects of patient care including:

- health outcomes
- clinical processes
- patient safety
- efficient use of health care resources
- care coordination
- patient engagements
- population and public health
- adherence to clinical guidelines

Measuring and reporting CQMs helps to ensure that our health care system is delivering effective, safe, efficient, patient-centered, equitable, and timely care.

To participate in the Medicare and Medicaid Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Programs and receive an incentive payment, providers are required to submit CQM data from certified EHR technology.

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2014 Clinical Quality Measure Options

In August May 2014, CMS released a final rule that grants flexibility to providers who are unable to fully implement 2014 Edition CEHRT for an EHR reporting period in 2014 due to delays in 2014 CEHRT availability. The different 2014 CQM submission options are outlined below.

2011 CEHRT

Providers scheduled to demonstrate Stage 1 or Stage 2 who are still using 2011 Edition CEHRT use 2013 CQMs.

2011 & 2014 CEHRT

Providers scheduled to demonstrate Stage 1 who are using a combination of 2011 and 2014 Editions submit 2013 CQMs or 2014 CQMs, depending on whether they report 2013 Stage 1 or 2014 Stage 1 objectives.

Providers scheduled to demonstrate Stage 2 using a combination of 2011 and 2014 Editions submit 2013 CQMs if they report 2013 Stage 1 objectives, or submit 2014 CQMs if they report 2014 Stage 1 objectives or Stage 2 objectives.

2014 CEHRT

Providers scheduled to demonstrate Stage 1 or Stage 2 in 2014 who have fully implemented 2014 CEHRT use 2014 CQMs.