



Measure Information

This document contains the information submitted by measure developers/stewards, but is organized according to NQF's measure evaluation criteria and process. The item numbers refer to those in the submission form but may be in a slightly different order here. In general, the item numbers also reference the related criteria (e.g., item 1b.1 relates to sub criterion 1b).

Brief Measure Information

NQF #: 0226

Corresponding Measures:

Measure Title: Influenza Immunization in the ESRD Population (Facility Level)

Measure Steward: Kidney Care Quality Alliance

sp.02. Brief Description of Measure: Percentage of end stage renal disease (ESRD) patients aged 6 months and older receiving hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis during the time from October 1 (or when the influenza vaccine became available) to March 31 who either received, were offered and declined, or were determined to have a medical contraindication to the influenza vaccine.

1b.01. Developer Rationale: The measure will promote adherence to existing clinical practice guidelines on influenza immunization in the ESRD population and will consequently reduce patient complication, hospitalization, and mortality rates.

sp.12. Numerator Statement: Number of patients from the denominator who:

1. received an influenza vaccination,* documented by the provider or reported receipt from another provider by the patient (computed and reported separately);

OR

2. were assessed and offered an influenza vaccination but declined (computed and reported separately);

OR

3. were assessed and determined to have a medical contraindication(s) of anaphylactic hypersensitivity to eggs or other component(s) of the vaccine, history of Guillain-Barre Syndrome within 6 weeks after a previous influenza vaccination, and/or bone marrow transplant within the past 6 months (<6 months prior to encounters between October 1 and March 31) (computed and reported separately).

*Only inactivated vaccine should be used in the ESRD population.

sp.14. Denominator Statement: All ESRD patients aged 6 months and older receiving hemodialysis and/or peritoneal dialysis during the time from October 1 (or when the influenza vaccine became available) to March 31.

sp.16. Denominator Exclusions: None.

Measure Type: Process

sp.28. Data Source:

Other

Paper Medical Records

Electronic Health Data

sp.07. Level of Analysis:

Facility

IF Endorsement Maintenance – Original Endorsement Date: 2007-11-15 12:00 AM

Most Recent Endorsement Date: 1/17/2017 12:00:00 AM

IF this measure is included in a composite, NQF Composite#/title:

IF this measure is paired/grouped, NQF#/title:

sp.03. IF PAIRED/GROUPED, what is the reason this measure must be reported with other measures to appropriately interpret results?:

1. Importance to Measure and Report

Extent to which the specific measure focus is evidence-based, important to making significant gains in healthcare quality, and improving health outcomes for a specific high-priority (high-impact) aspect of healthcare where there is variation in or overall less-than-optimal performance. Measures must be judged to meet all sub criteria to pass this criterion and be evaluated against the remaining criteria

1ma.01. Indicate whether there is new evidence about the measure since the most recent maintenance evaluation. If yes, please briefly summarize the new evidence, and ensure you have updated entries in the Evidence section as needed.

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

Please separate added or updated information from the most recent measure evaluation within each question response in the Importance to Measure and Report: Evidence section. For example:

Current Submission:

Updated evidence information here.

Previous (Year) Submission:

Evidence from the previous submission here.

1a.01. Provide a logic model.

Briefly describe the steps between the healthcare structures and processes (e.g., interventions, or services) and the patient's health outcome(s). The relationships in the diagram should be easily understood by general, non-technical audiences. Indicate the structure, process or outcome being measured.

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

1a.02. Select the type of source for the systematic review of the body of evidence that supports the performance measure.

A systematic review is a scientific investigation that focuses on a specific question and uses explicit, prespecified scientific methods to identify, select, assess, and summarize the findings of similar but separate studies. It may include a quantitative synthesis (meta-analysis), depending on the available data.

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

If the evidence is not based on a systematic review, skip to the end of the section and do not complete the repeatable question group below. If you wish to include more than one systematic review, add additional tables by clicking "Add" after the final question in the group.

Evidence - Systematic Reviews Table (Repeatable)

Group 1 - Evidence - Systematic Reviews Table

1a.03. Provide the title, author, date, citation (including page number) and URL for the systematic review.

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

1a.04. Quote the guideline or recommendation verbatim about the process, structure or intermediate outcome being measured. If not a guideline, summarize the conclusions from the systematic review.

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

1a.05. Provide the grade assigned to the evidence associated with the recommendation, and include the definition of the grade.

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

1a.06. Provide all other grades and definitions from the evidence grading system.

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

1a.07. Provide the grade assigned to the recommendation, with definition of the grade.

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

1a.08. Provide all other grades and definitions from the recommendation grading system.

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

1a.09. Detail the quantity (how many studies) and quality (the type of studies) of the evidence.

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

1a.10. Provide the estimates of benefit, and consistency across studies.

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

1a.11. Indicate what, if any, harms were identified in the study.

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

1a.12. Identify any new studies conducted since the systematic review, and indicate whether the new studies change the conclusions from the systematic review.

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

1a.13. If source of evidence is NOT from a clinical practice guideline, USPSTF, or systematic review, describe the evidence on which you are basing the performance measure.

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

1a.14. Briefly synthesize the evidence that supports the measure.

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

1a.15. Detail the process used to identify the evidence.

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

1a.16. Provide the citation(s) for the evidence.

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

1b.01. Briefly explain the rationale for this measure.

Explain how the measure will improve the quality of care, and list the benefits or improvements in quality envisioned by use of this measure.

[Response Begins]

The measure will promote adherence to existing clinical practice guidelines on influenza immunization in the ESRD population and will consequently reduce patient complication, hospitalization, and mortality rates.

[Response Ends]

1b.02. Provide performance scores on the measure as specified (current and over time) at the specified level of analysis.

Include mean, std dev, min, max, interquartile range, and scores by decile. Describe the data source including number of measured entities; number of patients; dates of data; if a sample, characteristics of the entities include. This information also will be used to address the sub-criterion on improvement (4b) under Usability and Use.

[Response Begins]

SECTION UPDATED

KCQA is not a measure implementer and thus does not have access to current performance results on NQF 0226; however, our data from testing the measure demonstrate significant performance variation across providers in this aspect of patient care. We also provide additional literature on more current rates of influenza vaccination in the

ESRD population, though cannot attest that the rates use the exact specifications of the KCQA measure.

KCQA tested its influenza immunization measure through a 2007 prospective cohort study on a nationally drawn sample of 53 dialysis facilities containing a mix of for-profit and not-for-profit providers; hospital-affiliated and freestanding facilities within large, small, and independent dialysis organizations; urban, suburban, and rural settings; and facilities both with and without electronic health records (EHRs). Approximately 25 patients per facility were sought, resulting in a final sample size of 1,115 patients. Both facility and patient samples were structured to be generally representative of the national industry profile as identified by the United States Renal Data Systems (USRDS) 2007 Annual Data Report. Because of the measure's intended use via CROWNWeb, facility records were used as the data source, and standardized, paper-based data collection sheets constructed from the endorsed specifications were employed during data collection.

(NOTE: At the time NQF made its standardized influenza immunization specifications available for comment in May 2008, KCQA noted that the American Society of Pediatric Nephrology had not yet reached a conclusion regarding immunization in individuals aged 6 months through 17 years, and expressed reservations about immediately including these patients in the study. For this reason, as well as the significant constraints on research involving children, we did not test the measure in the pediatric population. We believe, however, that the lack of testing in this population is not a barrier to measure implementation because Date of Birth is not a data element requiring collection per se and is also a standard field within CROWNWeb.)

Influenza immunization data were provided for 1,104 of the 1,115 patients (99%) included in the study sample. The immunization status of the study population at the conclusion of the study was as follows:

- Patients vaccinated = 958
- Patients who were assessed but declined the vaccine = 120
- Patients who were assessed and determined to have a medical contraindication to the vaccine = 5
- Unvaccinated patients for whom no explanatory information was provided = 21 (Note: These patients were counted as unimmunized when calculating measure performance scores.)
- Patients with no vaccination information provided = 11 (Note: These patients were counted as unimmunized when calculating measure performance scores.)

Performance Rate =

$$([\text{Patients vaccinated}] + [\text{Patients who declined vaccine}] + [\text{Patients with medical contraindication}]) / (\text{Total patients with ESRD}) = (958 + 120 + 5) / 1,115 = 97.1\%$$

Descriptive statistics for the annual performance measure scores for all tested entities (facilities) were constructed. These statistics include the mean, median, mode, standard deviation, 95% confidence interval, range of scores, interquartile range, and scores across the measured entities by decile. We defined meaningful difference as a significant spread (>20%) between minimum and maximum scores or a significant spread between median and minimum or median and maximum scores.

- Mean Score = 97.1% (95% CI = 96.57-97.63)
- Standard Deviation = 5.71
- Range of Scores = 22 (78-100%)
- Median and Mode = 100%
- Interquartile Range = 4
- Scores by Decile: D1 = 90%, D2 = 94.4%, D3-D10 = 100%

Conclusions: Findings from KCQA's measure testing indicate that despite the high overall performance rate, the performance for each individual facility ranged from 78% to 100%. Thus contrary to current and longstanding clinical practice guidelines and recommendations, considerable performance variation in influenza immunization practices among dialysis facilities exists. The results identify an important and actionable gap in performance. Additionally, results demonstrate a significant spread between both the minimum and maximum and minimum and median scores, indicating that the measure identifies clinically and practically meaningful differences in performance among the measured entities.

[Response Ends]

1b.03. If no or limited performance data on the measure as specified is reported above, then provide a summary of data from the literature that indicates opportunity for improvement or overall less than optimal performance on the specific focus of measurement. Include citations.

[Response Begins]

SECTION UPDATED

KCQA is not a measure implementer and thus does not have access to current performance results using the measure, but we do have influenza vaccination rates from other sources. In addition to the testing results reported in 1b2, the USRDS 2015 Annual Data Report indicates that despite a steady increase in influenza vaccination rates since 2003, only 71% of patients with ESRD received an influenza vaccination in the 2012-2013 flu season—still substantially below the Healthy People 2020 (HP2020) target of 90%. (We note the USRDS data is not wholly consistent with the KCQA measure or NQF's standardized specifications for influenza vaccinations, as USRDS presents data on vaccine receipt rates only.)

Citations:

U.S. Renal Dialysis System, USRDS 2015 Annual Data Report: Atlas of End-Stage Renal Disease in the United States. 2016.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: Healthy People 2020. Washington, DC, U.S. Government Printing Office, 2010.

National Quality Forum. National Voluntary Consensus Standards for Influenza and Pneumococcal Immunizations: A Consensus Report. Washington, DC, 2008.

[Response Ends]

1b.04. Provide disparities data from the measure as specified (current and over time) by population group, e.g., by race/ethnicity, gender, age, insurance status, socioeconomic status, and/or disability.

Describe the data source including number of measured entities; number of patients; dates of data; if a sample, characteristics of the entities included. Include mean, std dev, min, max, interquartile range, and scores by decile. For measures that show high levels of performance, i.e., "topped out", disparities data may demonstrate an opportunity for improvement/gap in care for certain sub-populations. This information also will be used to address the sub-criterion on improvement (4b) under Usability and Use.

[Response Begins]

SECTION UPDATED

KCQA is not a measure implementer and thus does not have access to current performance results or disparities data for the measure. Additionally, minimal patient data were sought to protect confidentiality during KCQA's testing of the measure, and the collection of race/ethnicity information was not necessary to test the measure's data elements for reliability and validity, thus an examination of the data for disparities trends was not conducted at that time. However, influenza vaccination disparities data from other sources is provided in the following section (1b5).

[Response Ends]

1b.05. If no or limited data on disparities from the measure as specified is reported above, then provide a summary of data from the literature that addresses disparities in care on the specific focus of measurement. Include citations. Not necessary if performance data provided in above.

[Response Begins]

SECTION UPDATED

KCQA is not a measure implementer; however, the most recent USRDS data indicate that while rates of reported influenza vaccinations in patients with ESRD continue to improve, reaching 71% overall in 2012-2013, variations in vaccination rates between demographic groups continue. The percentage of patients vaccinated is lowest in younger age groups, with only 49% of patients with ESRD aged 0-21 years vaccinated in the 2012-2013 season. The percentage of patients vaccinated is similar in the most recent years across race/ethnicity, though slightly lower among Blacks at 68%. By modality, hemodialysis patients were vaccinated at the highest frequency (75% in the most current data), compared with 72% in peritoneal dialysis patients, and 56% in kidney transplant patients.

Citation: U.S. Renal Dialysis System. USRDS 2015 Annual Data Report: Atlas of End-Stage Renal Disease in the United States. 2016.

[Response Ends]

2. Scientific Acceptability of Measure Properties

Extent to which the measure, as specified, produces consistent (reliable) and credible (valid) results about the quality of care when implemented. Measures must be judged to meet the sub criteria for both reliability and validity to pass this criterion and be evaluated against the remaining criteria.

spma.01. Indicate whether there are changes to the specifications since the last updates/submission. If yes, update the specifications in the Measure Specifications section of the Measure Submission Form, and explain your reasoning for the changes below.

[Response Begins]

No

[Response Ends]

spma.02. Briefly describe any important changes to the measure specifications since the last measure update and provide a rationale.

For annual updates, please explain how the change in specifications affects the measure results. If a material change in specification is identified, data from re-testing of the measure with the new specifications is required for early maintenance review.

For example, specifications may have been updated based on suggestions from a previous NQF CDP review.

[Response Begins]

No changes have been made to the KCQA Influenza Immunization in the ESRD Population measure since its last endorsement date.

[Response Ends]

sp.01. Provide the measure title.

Measure titles should be concise yet convey who and what is being measured (see [What Good Looks Like](#)).

[Response Begins]

Influenza Immunization in the ESRD Population (Facility Level)

[Response Ends]

sp.02. Provide a brief description of the measure.

Including type of score, measure focus, target population, timeframe, (e.g., Percentage of adult patients aged 18-75 years receiving one or more HbA1c tests per year).

[Response Begins]

Percentage of end stage renal disease (ESRD) patients aged 6 months and older receiving hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis during the time from October 1 (or when the influenza vaccine became available) to March 31 who either received, were offered and declined, or were determined to have a medical contraindication to the influenza vaccine.

[Response Ends]

sp.04. Check all the clinical condition/topic areas that apply to your measure, below.

Please refrain from selecting the following answer option(s). We are in the process of phasing out these answer options and request that you instead select one of the other answer options as they apply to your measure.

Please do not select:

- *Surgery: General*

[Response Begins]

Renal

Renal: End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD)

[Response Ends]

sp.05. Check all the non-condition specific measure domain areas that apply to your measure, below.

[Response Begins]

Immunization

Primary Prevention

[Response Ends]

sp.06. Select one or more target population categories.

Select only those target populations which can be stratified in the reporting of the measure's result.

Please refrain from selecting the following answer option(s). We are in the process of phasing out these answer options and request that you instead select one of the other answer options as they apply to your measure.

Please do not select:

- *Populations at Risk: Populations at Risk*

[Response Begins]

Children (Age < 18)

Elderly (Age >= 65)

[Response Ends]

sp.07. Select the levels of analysis that apply to your measure.

Check ONLY the levels of analysis for which the measure is SPECIFIED and TESTED.

Please refrain from selecting the following answer option(s). We are in the process of phasing out these answer options and request that you instead select one of the other answer options as they apply to your measure.

Please do not select:

- *Clinician: Clinician*
- *Population: Population*

[Response Begins]

Facility

[Response Ends]

sp.08. Indicate the care settings that apply to your measure.

Check ONLY the settings for which the measure is SPECIFIED and TESTED.

[Response Begins]

Post-Acute Care

[Response Ends]

sp.09. Provide a URL link to a web page specific for this measure that contains current detailed specifications including code lists, risk model details, and supplemental materials.

Do not enter a URL linking to a home page or to general information. If no URL is available, indicate "none available".

[Response Begins]

<http://kidneycarepartners.com/kidney-care-quality-alliance-kcqa/>

[Response Ends]

sp.12. Attach the data dictionary, code table, or value sets (and risk model codes and coefficients when applicable). Excel formats (.xlsx or .csv) are preferred.

Attach an excel or csv file; if this poses an issue, [contact staff](#). Provide descriptors for any codes. Use one file with multiple worksheets, if needed.

[Response Begins]

No data dictionary/code table – all information provided in the submission form

[Response Ends]

sp.13. State the numerator.

Brief, narrative description of the measure focus or what is being measured about the target population, i.e., cases from the target population with the target process, condition, event, or outcome).

DO NOT include the rationale for the measure.

[Response Begins]

Number of patients from the denominator who:

1. received an influenza vaccination,* documented by the provider or reported receipt from another provider by the patient (computed and reported separately);

OR

2. were assessed and offered an influenza vaccination but declined (computed and reported separately);

OR

3. were assessed and determined to have a medical contraindication(s) of anaphylactic hypersensitivity to eggs or other component(s) of the vaccine, history of Guillain-Barre Syndrome within 6 weeks after a previous influenza

vaccination, and/or bone marrow transplant within the past 6 months (<6 months prior to encounters between October 1 and March 31) (computed and reported separately).

*Only inactivated vaccine should be used in the ESRD population.

[Response Ends]

sp.14. Provide details needed to calculate the numerator.

All information required to identify and calculate the cases from the target population with the target process, condition, event, or outcome such as definitions, time period for data collection, specific data collection items/responses, code/value sets.

Note: lists of individual codes with descriptors that exceed 1 page should be provided in an Excel or csv file in required format at sp.11.

[Response Begins]

Include in the numerator all patients from the denominator who:*

1. Received an influenza vaccination** (documented by the provider or reported receipt from another provider by the patient).
2. Were assessed and offered an influenza vaccination but declined.
3. Were assessed and were determined to have a medical contraindication(s) of anaphylactic hypersensitivity to eggs or other component(s) of the vaccine, history of Guillain-Barre Syndrome within 6 weeks after a previous influenza vaccination, and/or bone marrow transplant within the past 6 months (<6 months prior to encounters between October 1 and March 31).

*Each of the 3 numerator subcategories are to be computed and reported separately.

**Only inactivated vaccine should be used in the ESRD population.

[Response Ends]

sp.15. State the denominator.

Brief, narrative description of the target population being measured.

[Response Begins]

All ESRD patients aged 6 months and older receiving hemodialysis and/or peritoneal dialysis during the time from October 1 (or when the influenza vaccine became available) to March 31.

[Response Ends]

sp.16. Provide details needed to calculate the denominator.

All information required to identify and calculate the target population/denominator such as definitions, time period for data collection, specific data collection items/responses, code/value sets.

Note: lists of individual codes with descriptors that exceed 1 page should be provided in an Excel or csv file in required format at sp.11.

[Response Begins]

Include in the denominator all patients within a facility who meet the following criteria during the time from October 1 (or when the influenza vaccine became available) to March 31 of the reporting year:

1. Diagnosis = ESRD

AND

2. Primary type of dialysis = hemodialysis, home hemodialysis, continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis (CAPD), continuous cycling peritoneal dialysis (CCPD), or nighttime intermittent peritoneal dialysis (NIPD).

AND

3. Age = ≥ 6 months

[Response Ends]

sp.17. Describe the denominator exclusions.

Brief narrative description of exclusions from the target population.

[Response Begins]

None.

[Response Ends]

sp.18. Provide details needed to calculate the denominator exclusions.

All information required to identify and calculate exclusions from the denominator such as definitions, time period for data collection, specific data collection items/responses, code/value sets – Note: lists of individual codes with descriptors that exceed 1 page should be provided in an Excel or csv file in required format at sp.11.

[Response Begins]

Not applicable.

[Response Ends]

sp.19. Provide all information required to stratify the measure results, if necessary.

Include the stratification variables, definitions, specific data collection items/responses, code/value sets, and the risk-model covariates and coefficients for the clinically-adjusted version of the measure when appropriate. Note: lists of individual codes with descriptors that exceed 1 page should be provided in an Excel or csv file in required format in the Data Dictionary field.

[Response Begins]

Not applicable.

[Response Ends]

sp.20. Is this measure adjusted for socioeconomic status (SES)?

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

sp.21. Select the risk adjustment type.

Select type. Provide specifications for risk stratification and/or risk models in the Scientific Acceptability section.

[Response Begins]

No risk adjustment or risk stratification

[Response Ends]

sp.22. Select the most relevant type of score.

Attachment: If available, please provide a sample report.

[Response Begins]

Rate/proportion

[Response Ends]

sp.23. Select the appropriate interpretation of the measure score.

Classifies interpretation of score according to whether better quality or resource use is associated with a higher score, a lower score, a score falling within a defined interval, or a passing score

[Response Begins]

Better quality = Higher score

[Response Ends]

sp.24. Diagram or describe the calculation of the measure score as an ordered sequence of steps.

Identify the target population; exclusions; cases meeting the target process, condition, event, or outcome; time period of data, aggregating data; risk adjustment; etc.

[Response Begins]

DENOMINATOR

Include in the denominator all patients within a facility who meet the following criteria during the time from October 1 (or when the influenza vaccine became available) to March 31 of the reporting year:

1. Diagnosis = ESRD

AND

2. Primary type of dialysis = hemodialysis, home hemodialysis, continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis (CAPD), continuous cycling peritoneal dialysis (CCPD), or nighttime intermittent peritoneal dialysis (NIPD)

AND

3. Age = >=6 months as of the first day of the most recent month of the reporting period. (Patient's age is or shall be determined by subtracting the patient's date of birth from the first day of the most recent month of the reporting period.)

NUMERATOR

Include in the numerator all patients from the denominator who meet the following criteria:**

1. Patient received an influenza vaccination* (documented by the provider or reported receipt from another provider by the patient);

OR

2. Patient was assessed and offered an influenza vaccination but declined;

OR

3. Patient was assessed and was determined to have a medical contraindication(s) of anaphylactic hypersensitivity to eggs or other component(s) of the vaccine, history of Guillain-Barre Syndrome within 6 weeks after a previous influenza vaccination, and/or bone marrow transplant within the past 6 months (<6 months prior to encounters between October 1 and March 31).

*Only inactivated vaccine should be used in the ESRD population.

** Each of the 3 numerator subcategories are to be computed and reported separately.

[Response Ends]

sp.27. If measure testing is based on a sample, provide instructions for obtaining the sample and guidance on minimum sample size.

Examples of samples used for testing:

- *Testing may be conducted on a sample of the accountable entities (e.g., hospital, physician). The analytic unit specified for the particular measure (e.g., physician, hospital, home health agency) determines the sampling strategy for scientific acceptability testing.*
- *The sample should represent the variety of entities whose performance will be measured. The [2010 Measure Testing Task Force](#) recognized that the samples used for reliability and validity testing often have limited generalizability because measured entities volunteer to participate. Ideally, however, all types of entities whose performance will be measured should be included in reliability and validity testing.*
- *The sample should include adequate numbers of units of measurement and adequate numbers of patients to answer the specific reliability or validity question with the chosen statistical method.*
- *When possible, units of measurement and patients within units should be randomly selected.*

[Response Begins]

Not applicable.

[Response Ends]

sp.30. Select only the data sources for which the measure is specified.

[Response Begins]

Electronic Health Data

Paper Medical Records

[Response Ends]

sp.31. Identify the specific data source or data collection instrument.

For example, provide the name of the database, clinical registry, collection instrument, etc., and describe how data are collected.

[Response Begins]

The necessary data elements are to be collected via the CMS CROWNWeb data repository.

[Response Ends]

sp.32. Provide the data collection instrument.

[Response Begins]

No data collection instrument provided

[Response Ends]

2ma.01. Indicate whether additional empirical reliability testing at the accountable entity level has been conducted. If yes, please provide results in the following section, Scientific Acceptability: Reliability - Testing. Include information on all testing conducted (prior testing as well as any new testing).

Please separate added or updated information from the most recent measure evaluation within each question response in the Scientific Acceptability sections. For example:

Current Submission:

Updated testing information here.

Previous Submission:

Testing from the previous submission here.

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

2ma.02. Indicate whether additional empirical validity testing at the accountable entity level has been conducted. If yes, please provide results in the following section, Scientific Acceptability: Validity - Testing. Include information on all testing conducted (prior testing as well as any new testing).

Please separate added or updated information from the most recent measure evaluation within each question response in the Scientific Acceptability sections. For example:

Current Submission:

Updated testing information here.

Previous Submission:

Testing from the previous submission here.

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

2ma.03. For outcome, patient-reported outcome, resource use, cost, and some process measures, risk adjustment/stratification may be conducted. Did you perform a risk adjustment or stratification analysis?

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

2ma.04. For maintenance measures in which risk adjustment/stratification has been performed, indicate whether additional risk adjustment testing has been conducted since the most recent maintenance evaluation. This may include updates to the risk adjustment analysis with additional clinical, demographic, and social risk factors.

Please update the Scientific Acceptability: Validity - Other Threats to Validity section.

Note: This section must be updated even if social risk factors are not included in the risk adjustment strategy.

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

Measure testing must demonstrate adequate reliability and validity in order to be recommended for endorsement. Testing may be conducted for data elements and/or the computed measure score. Testing information and results should be entered in the appropriate fields in the Scientific Acceptability sections of the Measure Submission Form.

- Measures must be tested for all the data sources and levels of analyses that are specified. If there is more than one set of data specifications or more than one level of analysis, contact NQF staff about how to present all the testing information in one form.
- All required sections must be completed.
- For composites with outcome and resource use measures, Questions 2b.23-2b.37 (Risk Adjustment) also must be completed.
- If specified for multiple data sources/sets of specifications (e.g., claims and EHRs), Questions 2b.11-2b.13 also must be completed.
- An appendix for supplemental materials may be submitted (see Question 1 in the Additional section), but there is no guarantee it will be reviewed.
- Contact NQF staff with any questions. Check for resources at the [Submitting Standards webpage](#).
- For information on the most updated guidance on how to address social risk factors variables and testing in this form refer to the release notes for the [2021 Measure Evaluation Criteria and Guidance](#).

Note: The information provided in this form is intended to aid the Standing Committee and other stakeholders in understanding to what degree the testing results for this measure meet NQF's evaluation criteria for testing.

2a. Reliability testing demonstrates the measure data elements are repeatable, producing the same results a high proportion of the time when assessed in the same population in the same time period and/or that the measure score is precise. For instrument-based measures (including PRO-PMs) and composite performance measures, reliability should be demonstrated for the computed performance score.

2b1. Validity testing demonstrates that the measure data elements are correct and/or the measure score correctly reflects the quality of care provided, adequately identifying differences in quality. For instrument based measures (including PRO-PMs) and composite performance measures, validity should be demonstrated for the computed performance score.

2b2. Exclusions are supported by the clinical evidence and are of sufficient frequency to warrant inclusion in the specifications of the measure;

AND

If patient preference (e.g., informed decision-making) is a basis for exclusion, there must be evidence that the exclusion impacts performance on the measure; in such cases, the measure must be specified so that the information about patient preference and the effect on the measure is transparent (e.g., numerator category computed separately, denominator exclusion category computed separately).

2b3. For outcome measures and other measures when indicated (e.g., resource use):

- an evidence-based risk-adjustment strategy (e.g., risk models, risk stratification) is specified; is based on patient factors (including clinical and social risk factors) that influence the measured outcome and are present at start of care; 14,15 and has demonstrated adequate discrimination and calibration

OR

- rationale/data support no risk adjustment/ stratification.

2b4. Data analysis of computed measure scores demonstrates that methods for scoring and analysis of the specified measure allow for identification of statistically significant and practically/clinically meaningful 16 differences in performance;

OR

there is evidence of overall less-than-optimal performance.

2b5. If multiple data sources/methods are specified, there is demonstration they produce comparable results.

2b6. Analyses identify the extent and distribution of missing data (or nonresponse) and demonstrate that performance results are not biased due to systematic missing data (or differences between responders and non-responders) and how the specified handling of missing data minimizes bias.

2c. For composite performance measures, empirical analyses support the composite construction approach and demonstrate that:

2c1. the component measures fit the quality construct and add value to the overall composite while achieving the related objective of parsimony to the extent possible; and

2c2. the aggregation and weighting rules are consistent with the quality construct and rationale while achieving the related objective of simplicity to the extent possible.

(if not conducted or results not adequate, justification must be submitted and accepted)

Definitions

Reliability testing applies to both the data elements and computed measure score. Examples of reliability testing for data elements include, but are not limited to: inter-rater/abstractor or intra-rater/abstractor studies; internal consistency for multi-item scales; test-retest for survey items. Reliability testing of the measure score addresses precision of measurement (e.g., signal-to-noise).

Validity testing applies to both the data elements and computed measure score. Validity testing of data elements typically analyzes agreement with another authoritative source of the same information. Examples of validity testing of the measure score include, but are not limited to: testing hypotheses that the measures scores indicate quality of care, e.g., measure scores are different for groups known to have differences in quality assessed by another valid quality measure or method; correlation of measure scores with another valid indicator of quality for the specific topic; or relationship to conceptually related measures (e.g., scores on process measures to scores on outcome measures). Face validity of the measure score as a quality indicator may be adequate if accomplished through a systematic and transparent process, by identified experts, and explicitly addresses whether performance scores resulting from the measure as specified can be used to distinguish good from poor quality. The degree of consensus and any areas of disagreement must be provided/discussed.

Examples of evidence that an exclusion distorts measure results include, but are not limited to: frequency of occurrence, variability of exclusions across providers, and sensitivity analyses with and without the exclusion.

Patient preference is not a clinical exception to eligibility and can be influenced by provider interventions.

Risk factors that influence outcomes should not be specified as exclusions.

With large enough sample sizes, small differences that are statistically significant may or may not be practically or clinically meaningful. The substantive question may be, for example, whether a statistically significant difference of one percentage point in the percentage of patients who received smoking cessation counseling (e.g., 74 percent v. 75 percent) is clinically meaningful; or whether a statistically significant difference of \$25 in cost for an episode of care (e.g., \$5,000 v. \$5,025) is practically meaningful. Measures with overall less-than-optimal performance may not demonstrate much variability across providers.

Please separate added or updated information from the most recent measure evaluation within each question response in the Scientific Acceptability sections. For example:

Current Submission:

Updated testing information here.

Previous (Year) Submission:

Testing from the previous submission here.

2a.01. Select only the data sources for which the measure is tested.

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

2a.02. If an existing dataset was used, identify the specific dataset.

The dataset used for testing must be consistent with the measure specifications for target population and healthcare entities being measured; e.g., Medicare Part A claims, Medicaid claims, other commercial insurance, nursing home MDS, home health OASIS, clinical registry).

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

2a.03. Provide the dates of the data used in testing.

Use the following format: "MM-DD-YYYY - MM-DD-YYYY"

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

2a.04. Select the levels of analysis for which the measure is tested.

Testing must be provided for all the levels specified and intended for measure implementation, e.g., individual clinician, hospital, health plan.

Please refrain from selecting the following answer option(s). We are in the process of phasing out these answer options and request that you instead select one of the other answer options as they apply to your measure.

Please do not select:

- Clinician: Clinician
- Population: Population

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

2a.05. List the measured entities included in the testing and analysis (by level of analysis and data source).

Identify the number and descriptive characteristics of measured entities included in the analysis (e.g., size, location, type); if a sample was used, describe how entities were selected for inclusion in the sample.

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

2a.06. Identify the number and descriptive characteristics of patients included in the analysis (e.g., age, sex, race, diagnosis), separated by level of analysis and data source; if a sample was used, describe how patients were selected for inclusion in the sample.

If there is a minimum case count used for testing, that minimum must be reflected in the specifications.

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

2a.07. If there are differences in the data or sample used for different aspects of testing (e.g., reliability, validity, exclusions, risk adjustment), identify how the data or sample are different for each aspect of testing.

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

2a.08. List the social risk factors that were available and analyzed.

For example, patient-reported data (e.g., income, education, language), proxy variables when social risk data are not collected from each patient (e.g. census tract), or patient community characteristics (e.g. percent vacant housing, crime rate) which do not have to be a proxy for patient-level data.

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

Note: If accuracy/correctness (validity) of data elements was empirically tested, separate reliability testing of data elements is not required – in 2a.09 check patient or encounter-level data; in 2a.010 enter “see validity testing section of data elements”; and enter “N/A” for 2a.11 and 2a.12.

2a.09. Select the level of reliability testing conducted.

Choose one or both levels.

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

2a.10. For each level of reliability testing checked above, describe the method of reliability testing and what it tests.

Describe the steps—do not just name a method; what type of error does it test; what statistical analysis was used.

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

2a.11. For each level of reliability testing checked above, what were the statistical results from reliability testing?

For example, provide the percent agreement and kappa for the critical data elements, or distribution of reliability statistics from a signal-to-noise analysis. For score-level reliability testing, when using a signal-to-noise analysis, more than just one overall statistic should be reported (i.e., to demonstrate variation in reliability across providers). If a particular method yields only one statistic, this should be explained. In addition, reporting of results stratified by sample size is preferred (pg. 18, [NQF Measure Evaluation Criteria](#)).

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

2a.12. Interpret the results, in terms of how they demonstrate reliability.

(In other words, what do the results mean and what are the norms for the test conducted?)

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

2b.01. Select the level of validity testing that was conducted.

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

2b.02. For each level of testing checked above, describe the method of validity testing and what it tests.

Describe the steps—do not just name a method; what was tested, e.g., accuracy of data elements compared to authoritative source, relationship to another measure as expected; what statistical analysis was used.

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

2b.03. Provide the statistical results from validity testing.

Examples may include correlations or t-test results.

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

2b.04. Provide your interpretation of the results in terms of demonstrating validity. (i.e., what do the results mean and what are the norms for the test conducted?)

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

2b.05. Describe the method for determining if statistically significant and clinically/practically meaningful differences in performance measure scores among the measured entities can be identified.

Describe the steps—do not just name a method; what statistical analysis was used? Do not just repeat the information provided in Importance to Measure and Report: Gap in Care/Disparities.

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

2b.06. Describe the statistical results from testing the ability to identify statistically significant and/or clinically/practically meaningful differences in performance measure scores across measured entities.

Examples may include number and percentage of entities with scores that were statistically significantly different from mean or some benchmark, different from expected; how was meaningful difference defined.

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

2b.07. Provide your interpretation of the results in terms of demonstrating the ability to identify statistically significant and/or clinically/practically meaningful differences in performance across measured entities.

In other words, what do the results mean in terms of statistical and meaningful differences?

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

2b.08. Describe the method of testing conducted to identify the extent and distribution of missing data (or non-response) and demonstrate that performance results are not biased due to systematic missing data (or differences between responders and non-responders). Include how the specified handling of missing data minimizes bias.

Describe the steps—do not just name a method; what statistical analysis was used.

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

2b.09. Provide the overall frequency of missing data, the distribution of missing data across providers, and the results from testing related to missing data.

For example, provide results of sensitivity analysis of the effect of various rules for missing data/non-response. If no empirical sensitivity analysis was conducted, identify the approaches for handling missing data that were considered and benefits and drawbacks of each).

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

2b.10. Provide your interpretation of the results, in terms of demonstrating that performance results are not biased due to systematic missing data (or differences between responders and non-responders), and how the specified handling of missing data minimizes bias.

In other words, what do the results mean in terms of supporting the selected approach for missing data and what are the norms for the test conducted; if no empirical analysis was conducted, justify the selected approach for missing data.

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

Note: This item is directed to measures that are risk-adjusted (with or without social risk factors) OR to measures with more than one set of specifications/instructions (e.g., one set of specifications for how to identify and compute the measure from medical record abstraction and a different set of specifications for claims or eQMs). It does not apply to measures that use more than one source of data in one set of specifications/instructions (e.g., claims data to identify the denominator and medical record abstraction for the numerator). Comparability is not required when comparing performance scores with and without social risk factors in the risk adjustment model. However, if comparability is not demonstrated for measures with more than one set of specifications/instructions, the different specifications (e.g., for medical records vs. claims) should be submitted as separate measures.

2b.11. Indicate whether there is more than one set of specifications for this measure.

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

2b.12. Describe the method of testing conducted to compare performance scores for the same entities across the different data sources/specifications.

Describe the steps—do not just name a method. Indicate what statistical analysis was used.

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

2b.13. Provide the statistical results from testing comparability of performance scores for the same entities when using different data sources/specifications.

Examples may include correlation, and/or rank order.

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

2b.14. Provide your interpretation of the results in terms of the differences in performance measure scores for the same entities across the different data sources/specifications.

In other words, what do the results mean and what are the norms for the test conducted.

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

2b.15. Indicate whether the measure uses exclusions.

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

2b.16. Describe the method of testing exclusions and what was tested.

Describe the steps—do not just name a method; what was tested, e.g., whether exclusions affect overall performance scores; what statistical analysis was used?

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

2b.17. Provide the statistical results from testing exclusions.

Include overall number and percentage of individuals excluded, frequency distribution of exclusions across measured entities, and impact on performance measure scores.

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

2b.18. Provide your interpretation of the results, in terms of demonstrating that exclusions are needed to prevent unfair distortion of performance results.

In other words, the value outweighs the burden of increased data collection and analysis. Note: If patient preference is an exclusion, the measure must be specified so that the effect on the performance score is transparent, e.g., scores with and without exclusion.

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

2b.19. Check all methods used to address risk factors.

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

2b.20. If using statistical risk models, provide detailed risk model specifications, including the risk model method, risk factors, risk factor data sources, coefficients, equations, codes with descriptors, and definitions.

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

2b.21. If an outcome or resource use measure is not risk-adjusted or stratified, provide rationale and analyses to demonstrate that controlling for differences in patient characteristics (i.e., case mix) is not needed to achieve fair comparisons across measured entities.

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

2b.22. Select all applicable resources and methods used to develop the conceptual model of how social risk impacts this outcome.

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

2b.23. Describe the conceptual and statistical methods and criteria used to test and select patient-level risk factors (e.g., clinical factors, social risk factors) used in the statistical risk model or for stratification by risk.

Please be sure to address the following: potential factors identified in the literature and/or expert panel; regression analysis; statistical significance of $p < 0.10$ or other statistical tests; correlation of x or higher. Patient factors should be present at the start of care, if applicable. Also discuss any "ordering" of risk factor inclusion; note whether social risk factors are added after all clinical factors. Discuss any considerations regarding data sources (e.g., availability, specificity).

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

2b.24. Detail the statistical results of the analyses used to test and select risk factors for inclusion in or exclusion from the risk model/stratification.

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

2b.25. Describe the analyses and interpretation resulting in the decision to select or not select social risk factors.

Examples may include prevalence of the factor across measured entities, availability of the data source, empirical association with the outcome, contribution of unique variation in the outcome, or assessment of between-unit effects and within-unit effects. Also describe the impact of adjusting for risk (or making no adjustment) on providers at high or low extremes of risk.

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

2b.26. Describe the method of testing/analysis used to develop and validate the adequacy of the statistical model or stratification approach (describe the steps—do not just name a method; what statistical analysis was used). Provide the statistical results from testing the approach to control for differences in patient characteristics (i.e., case mix) below. If stratified ONLY, enter "N/A" for questions about the statistical risk model discrimination and calibration statistics.

Validation testing should be conducted in a data set that is separate from the one used to develop the model.

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

2b.27. Provide risk model discrimination statistics.

For example, provide c-statistics or R-squared values.

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

2b.28. Provide the statistical risk model calibration statistics (e.g., Hosmer-Lemeshow statistic).

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

2b.29. Provide the risk decile plots or calibration curves used in calibrating the statistical risk model.

The preferred file format is .png, but most image formats are acceptable.

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

2b.30. Provide the results of the risk stratification analysis.

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

2b.31. Provide your interpretation of the results, in terms of demonstrating adequacy of controlling for differences in patient characteristics (i.e., case mix).

In other words, what do the results mean and what are the norms for the test conducted?

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

2b.32. Describe any additional testing conducted to justify the risk adjustment approach used in specifying the measure.

Not required but would provide additional support of adequacy of the risk model, e.g., testing of risk model in another data set; sensitivity analysis for missing data; other methods that were assessed.

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

3. Feasibility

Extent to which the specifications including measure logic, require data that are readily available or could be captured without undue burden and can be implemented for performance measurement.

3.01. Check all methods below that are used to generate the data elements needed to compute the measure score.

[Response Begins]

Coded by someone other than person obtaining original information (e.g., DRG, ICD-10 codes on claims)

Abstracted from a record by someone other than person obtaining original information (e.g., chart abstraction for quality measure or registry)

[Response Ends]

3.02. Detail to what extent the specified data elements are available electronically in defined fields.

In other words, indicate whether data elements that are needed to compute the performance measure score are in defined, computer-readable fields.

[Response Begins]

ALL data elements are in defined fields in a combination of electronic sources

[Response Ends]

3.03. If ALL the data elements needed to compute the performance measure score are not from electronic sources, specify a credible, near-term path to electronic capture, OR provide a rationale for using data elements not from electronic sources.

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

3.04. Describe any efforts to develop an eCQM.

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

3.06. Describe difficulties (as a result of testing and/or operational use of the measure) regarding data collection, availability of data, missing data, timing and frequency of data collection, sampling, patient confidentiality, time and cost of data collection, other feasibility/implementation issues.

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

Consider implications for both individuals providing data (patients, service recipients, respondents) and those whose performance is being measured.

3.07. Detail any fees, licensing, or other requirements to use any aspect of the measure as specified (e.g., value/code set, risk model, programming code, algorithm),

Attach the fee schedule here, if applicable.

[Response Begins]

Not applicable.

[Response Ends]

4. Usability and Use

Extent to which potential audiences (e.g., consumers, purchasers, providers, policy makers) are using or could use performance results for both accountability and performance improvement to achieve the goal of high-quality, efficient healthcare for individuals or populations.

Extent to which intended audiences (e.g., consumers, purchasers, providers, policy makers) can understand the results of the measure and are likely to find them useful for decision making.

NQF-endorsed measures are expected to be used in at least one accountability application within 3 years and publicly reported within 6 years of initial endorsement, in addition to demonstrating performance improvement.

4a.01. Check all current uses. For each current use checked, please provide:

Name of program and sponsor

URL

Purpose

Geographic area and number and percentage of accountable entities and patients included

Level of measurement and setting

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

4a.02. Check all planned uses.

[Response Begins]

Public reporting

Payment Program

Quality Improvement with Benchmarking (external benchmarking to multiple organizations)

[Response Ends]

4a.03. If not currently publicly reported OR used in at least one other accountability application (e.g., payment program, certification, licensing), explain why the measure is not in use.

For example, do policies or actions of the developer/steward or accountable entities restrict access to performance results or block implementation?

[Response Begins]

SECTION UPDATED

The measure was developed for use by CMS for its accountability initiatives. CMS has proposed in the ESRD QIP Proposed Rule for CY 2017 (released on June 30, 2016) that a reporting measure based on NQF 0226 be used in the QIP beginning in PY 2019. CMS indicates that all data elements necessary to support the measure have now been built into CROWNWeb.

We note NQF's Measure Applications Partnership (MAP) has encouraged CMS to use KCQA's Influenza Immunization in the ESRD Population measure in its accountability programs over CMS influenza measures submitted for consideration in the 2014-15 and 2015-16 cycles. In its 2016 Considerations for Implementing Measures in Federal Programs—Hospitals report, the MAP explicitly indicated its support for use of the KCQA

measure because it is NQF-endorsed, fully aligned with NQF's standardized specifications, and fully tested and demonstrated as a reliable and valid indicator of the quality of care.

Citation:

National Quality Forum Measure Applications Partnership. MAP 2016 Considerations for Implementing Measures in Federal Programs: Hospitals. Final Report. February 15, 2016.

http://www.qualityforum.org/Publications/2016/02/MAP_2016_Considerations_for_Implementing_Measures_in_Federal_Programs_-_Hospitals.aspx

[Response Ends]

4a.04. If not currently publicly reported OR used in at least one other accountability application, provide a credible plan for implementation within the expected timeframes: used in any accountability application within 3 years, and publicly reported within 6 years of initial endorsement.

A credible plan includes the specific program, purpose, intended audience, and timeline for implementing the measure within the specified timeframes. A plan for accountability applications addresses mechanisms for data aggregation and reporting.

[Response Begins]

SECTION UPDATED

As noted in 4a2, KCQA is currently in discussion with CMS regarding a CROWNWeb system update to build these data elements in to the platform to allow for implementation of the measure in the ESRD QIP.

Additionally, in its Proposed Rule for the ESRD Quality Incentive Program (QIP) (issued June 24, 2016), CMS seeks comment on adding an influenza vaccination measure to the QIP in the future. The Proposed Rule does not indicate whether such an addition refers to NQF 0226 or if CMS envisions specifying another measure and bringing it forward again through MAP and the NQF endorsement process. (As noted in 4a2, previous CMS iterations have not cleared MAP, which has instead encouraged use of the KCQA measure, NQF 0226.)

[Response Ends]

4a.05. Describe how performance results, data, and assistance with interpretation have been provided to those being measured or other users during development or implementation.

Detail how many and which types of measured entities and/or others were included. If only a sample of measured entities were included, describe the full population and how the sample was selected.

[Response Begins]

KCQA is not a measure implementer and thus does not have access to current performance results on NQF 0226 and does not provide contemporaneous results, data, or assistance with interpretation to those being measured or other users. However, during the course of measure testing and contemporaneous on-site interviews, dialysis facility personnel reported no difficulties comprehending or applying the measure concepts, collecting necessary data elements, or interpreting results.

Additionally, we note data from the United States Renal Data Systems (USRDS) 2017 Annual Data Report indicate an influenza vaccination rate of 72.2% in ESRD patients in the 2014-2015 flu season. Although this rate had been stable over the last two years and the percent vaccinated has increased from 56.7% a decade earlier, the rate of flu vaccination is still well below the Healthy People 2020 target of 90%.

KCQA tested NQF 0226 through a 2007 prospective cohort study on a nationally drawn sample of 53 dialysis

facilities containing a mix of for-profit and not-for-profit providers; hospital-affiliated and freestanding facilities within large, small, and independent dialysis organizations; urban, suburban, and rural settings; and facilities both with and without electronic health records (EHRs). Approximately 25 patients per facility were sought, resulting in a final sample size of 1,115 patients. Both facility and patient samples were structured to be generally representative of the national industry profile as identified by the USRDS 2007 Annual Data Report. Because of the measure's intended use via CROWNWeb, facility records were used as the data source, and standardized, paper-based data collection sheets constructed from the endorsed specifications were employed during data collection.

(NOTE: At the time NQF made its standardized influenza immunization specifications available for comment in May 2008, KCQA noted that the American Society of Pediatric Nephrology had not yet reached a conclusion regarding immunization in individuals aged 6 months through 17 years, and expressed reservations about immediately including these patients in the study. For this reason, as well as the significant constraints on research involving children, we did not test the measure in the pediatric population. We believe, however, that the lack of testing in this population is not a barrier to measure implementation because Date of Birth is not a data element requiring collection, per se, and is also a standard field within CROWNWeb.)

[Response Ends]

4a.06. Describe the process for providing measure results, including when/how often results were provided, what data were provided, what educational/explanatory efforts were made, etc.

[Response Begins]

Not applicable. KCQA is not a measure implementer and thus does not have access to current performance results on NQF 0226 and does not provide contemporaneous results, data, or assistance with interpretation to those being measured or other users.

[Response Ends]

4a.07. Summarize the feedback on measure performance and implementation from the measured entities and others. Describe how feedback was obtained.

[Response Begins]

KCQA is not a measure implementer and thus does not have access to current performance results on NQF 0226 and does not seek contemporaneous feedback on measure performance and implementation from measured entities. However, during the course of measure testing and on-site audits of 21% of participating testing sites (n=11), dialysis facility management and pertinent facility staff were queried during exit interviews on their perspectives on the KCQA measures, including the following:

1. Is the measure important? Why/why not?
2. Does the measure provide meaningful information to consumers, providers, and purchasers? Why/why not?
3. Will the measure promote the provision of appropriate, evidence-based care? Why/why not?
4. Is the measure constructed in a manner that will effectively evaluate the intended processes or outcomes? Why/why not?
5. Is the measure appropriate for use in public reporting? Pay-for-performance? Why/why not?
6. What is the relative importance of the measure compared to the other ESRD CPMs and why?
7. Do you have any recommendations on how the measure can be improved?

[Response Ends]

4a.08. Summarize the feedback obtained from those being measured.

[Response Begins]

Dialysis facility personnel believed the measure to be an important indicator of quality that will effectively evaluate the intended process of influenza immunization in the ESRD population. Moreover, interviewees agreed the measure will promote the provision of appropriate, evidence-based care and will provide meaningful information

to consumers, providers, and purchasers. Facilities did not report any difficulties comprehending or applying the measure concepts, collecting necessary data elements, or interpreting results, and believed the measure is appropriate for use in public reporting and pay-for-performance. No recommendations on how to improve the measure were offered.

[Response Ends]

4a.09. Summarize the feedback obtained from other users.

[Response Begins]

Not applicable; the measure is not yet in use. However, CMS indicates it is in the process of a CROWNWeb system update to build the necessary data elements in to the platform to allow for implementation of the measure in the ESRD QIP. We note NQF's Measure Applications Partnership (MAP) has encouraged CMS to use KCQA's Influenza Immunization in the ESRD Population measure in its accountability programs over CMS influenza measures submitted for consideration in the 2014-15 and 2015-16 cycles. In its 2016 Considerations for Implementing Measures in Federal Programs—Hospitals report, the MAP explicitly indicated its support for use of the KCQA measure because it is NQF-endorsed, fully aligned with NQF's standardized specifications, and fully tested and demonstrated as a reliable and valid indicator of the quality of care.

Citation: National Quality Forum Measure Applications Partnership. MAP 2016 Considerations for Implementing Measures in Federal Programs: Hospitals. Final Report. February 15, 2016.
http://www.qualityforum.org/Publications/2016/02/MAP_2016_Considerations_for_Implementing_Measures_in_Federal_Programs_-_Hospitals.aspx

[Response Ends]

4a.10. Describe how the feedback described has been considered when developing or revising the measure specifications or implementation, including whether the measure was modified and why or why not.

[Response Begins]

The feedback described in 4a2.2.1 was considered when finalizing the measure specifications. The measure was not modified because feedback indicated the measure concept and specifications were appropriate, easily comprehended and applied, and results were easily interpreted. No recommendations on measure modifications were offered and the measure was submitted to NQF as tested.

[Response Ends]

4b.01. You may refer to data provided in Importance to Measure and Report: Gap in Care/Disparities, but do not repeat here. Discuss any progress on improvement (trends in performance results, number and percentage of people receiving high-quality healthcare; Geographic area and number and percentage of accountable entities and patients included). If no improvement was demonstrated, provide an explanation. If not in use for performance improvement at the time of initial endorsement, provide a credible rationale that describes how the performance results could be used to further the goal of high-quality, efficient healthcare for individuals or populations.

[Response Begins]

SECTION UPDATED

KCQA is not a measure implementer and thus does not have direct access to performance trends for NQF 0226. Data from the USRDS 2015 Annual Data Report indicate a steady increase in influenza vaccination rates over the past 13 years, from 58% in the 2003-2004 season to 71%. Despite this, however, only 71% of patients with ESRD received an influenza vaccination in the 2012-2013 flu season—still substantially below the Healthy People 2020 (HP2020) target of 90%.

Citation:

U.S. Renal Dialysis System. USRDS 2015 Annual Data Report: Atlas of End-Stage Renal Disease in the United States. 2016.

[Response Ends]

4b.02. Explain any unexpected findings (positive or negative) during implementation of this measure, including unintended impacts on patients.

[Response Begins]

Percent agreement between the auditor and facility abstractors (i.e., the reliability percentage) was assessed during the on-site audits through a direct comparison of data submitted by the facilities throughout the pilot to data reabstracted by the auditor(s). (See Table 3 [Measure Reliability Percentage and Error Type] in Attachment A.) This marker of accuracy was found to be excellent at 98.1%, indicating minimal susceptibility to inaccuracies and errors.

[Response Ends]

4b.03. Explain any unexpected benefits realized from implementation of this measure.

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

5. Comparison to Related or Competing Measures

If a measure meets the above criteria and there are endorsed or new related measures (either the same measure focus or the same target population) or competing measures (both the same measure focus and the same target population), the measures are compared to address harmonization and/or selection of the best measure.

If you are updating a maintenance measure submission for the first time in MIMS, please note that the previous related and competing data appearing in question 5.03 may need to be entered in to 5.01 and 5.02, if the measures are NQF endorsed. Please review and update questions 5.01, 5.02, and 5.03 accordingly.

5.01. Search and select all NQF-endorsed related measures (conceptually, either same measure focus or target population).

(Can search and select measures.)

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

5.02. Search and select all NQF-endorsed competing measures (conceptually, the measures have both the same measure focus or target population).

(Can search and select measures.)

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

5.03. If there are related or competing measures to this measure, but they are not NQF-endorsed, please indicate the measure title and steward.

[Response Begins]

SECTION UPDATED

We note that the KCQA measure specifications are fully harmonized with NQF's standardized specifications for influenza vaccinations. We maintain that a separate measure addressing influenza immunization status specifically in patients with ESRD is necessary, given the substantially poorer outcomes observed with infection in this vulnerable population, the need for the specifications to reflect that only inactivated virus should be used in patients with ESRD, and the unique and dedicated data repository used for this population (CROWNWeb).

National Quality Forum. National Voluntary Consensus Standards for Influenza and Pneumococcal Immunizations: A Consensus Report. Washington, DC, 2008.

[Response Ends]

5.04. If this measure conceptually addresses EITHER the same measure focus OR the same target population as NQF-endorsed measure(s), indicate whether the measure specifications are harmonized to the extent possible.

[Response Begins]

Yes

[Response Ends]

5.05. If the measure specifications are not completely harmonized, identify the differences, rationale, and impact on interpretability and data collection burden.

[Response Begins]

Not applicable.

[Response Ends]

5.06. Describe why this measure is superior to competing measures (e.g., a more valid or efficient way to measure quality). Alternatively, justify endorsing an additional measure.

Provide analyses when possible.

[Response Begins]

No known competing measures.

[Response Ends]

Appendix

Supplemental materials may be provided in an appendix.:

Contact Information

Measure Steward (Intellectual Property Owner): Kidney Care Quality Alliance

Measure Steward Point of Contact: McGonigal, Lisa, lmcgon@msn.com

Measure Developer if different from Measure Steward: Kidney Care Quality Alliance

Measure Developer Point(s) of Contact: McGonigal, Lisa, lmcgon@msn.com

Additional Information

1. Provide any supplemental materials, if needed, as an appendix. All supplemental materials (such as data collection instrument or methodology reports) should be collated one file with a table of contents or bookmarks. If material pertains to a specific criterion, that should be indicated.

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

2. List the workgroup/panel members' names and organizations.

Describe the members' role in measure development.

[Response Begins]

KCQA Clinical Measures Work Group Members (developed measures):

1. William Haley, MD — Mayo Clinic
2. John Burkart, MD — GatesMcDonald Health Plus
3. Al Collins, MD — University of Minnesota
4. Charlie McAllister, MD — DaVita, Inc.
5. Jerry Yee, MD — Henry Ford Hospital

KCQA Clinical Measures Task Group Members (approved measures):

1. Charlie McAllister, MD—DaVita, Inc.
2. Raymond M. Hakim, MD, PhD — Fresenius Medical Care
3. Alan Kliger — Yale University
4. Ed Jones — Renal Physicians Association
5. Allen Nissenson — DaVita, Inc.
6. William Goodman — Amgen, Inc.
7. William Haley, MD — Mayo Clinic
8. Robert Provenzano — DaVita, Inc.
9. Gail Wick — American Nephrology Nurses Association
10. Rulan Parekh — American Kidney Fund

Kidney Care Quality Alliance Steering Committee Members (oversaw testing):

1. Raymond M. Hakim, MD, PhD (Co-Chair)—Fresenius Medical Care
2. Gail S. Wick, BSN, RN, CNN (Co-Chair)—American Nephrology Nurses Association
3. Dolph Chianchiano, JD—National Kidney Foundation
4. Richard S. Goldman, MD—Renal Physicians Association
5. Barbara Fivush, MD—American Society of Pediatric Nephrology
6. Maureen Michael, BSN, MBA—National Renal Administrators Association
7. Allen Nissenson, MD—DaVita
8. Barry M. Straube, MD—Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (Liaison Member)

[Response Ends]

3. Indicate the year the measure was first released.

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

4. Indicate the month and year of the most recent revision.

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

5. Indicate the frequency of review, or an update schedule, for this measure.

[Response Begins]

As needed with changes or additions to the evidence base, but at minimum every three years.

[Response Ends]

6. Indicate the next scheduled update or review of this measure.

[Response Begins]

[Response Ends]

7. Provide a copyright statement, if applicable. Otherwise, indicate "N/A".

[Response Begins]

© 2016 Kidney Care Quality Alliance. All Rights Reserved.

[Response Ends]

8. State any disclaimers, if applicable. Otherwise, indicate "N/A".

[Response Begins]

Dialysis facility performance measures (Measures) and related data specifications, developed by the Kidney Care Quality Alliance (KCQA), primarily funded by Kidney Care Partners, are intended to facilitate quality improvement activities by dialysis providers.

These Measures are intended to assist dialysis facilities in enhancing quality of care. Measures are designed for use by any dialysis facility. These performance Measures are not clinical guidelines and do not establish a standard of medical care. KCQA has not tested its Measures for all potential applications. KCQA encourages the evaluation of its Measures.

Measures are subject to review and may be revised or rescinded at any time by KCQA. The Measures may not be altered without the prior written approval of KCQA. Measures developed by KCQA, while copyrighted, can be reproduced and distributed, without modification, for noncommercial purposes, e.g., use by dialysis providers in connection with their care delivery or for research. Commercial use is defined as the sale, license, or distribution of the Measures for commercial gain, or incorporation of the Measures into a product or service that is sold, licensed or distributed for commercial gain. Commercial uses of the Measures require a license agreement between the user and Kidney Care Partners, on behalf of KCQA.

Neither KCQA nor its members shall be responsible for any use of these Measures.

THE MEASURES ARE PROVIDED "AS IS" WITHOUT WARRANTY OF ANY KIND

[Response Ends]

9. Provide any additional information or comments, if applicable. Otherwise, indicate "N/A".

[Response Begins]

<http://www.kidneycarepartners.com>

[Response Ends]