

Reference #: 2023-65-IP
From: Inpatient Value, Incentives, and Quality Reporting Outreach and Education Support Contractor
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To: IQR and EHR Program ListServe Recipient List
Subject: Now Available on eCQI Resource Center: CMS Digital Quality Measure Definition

In March 2022, CMS published the CMS Digital Quality Measurement Strategic Roadmap on the Electronic Clinical Quality Improvement (eCQI) Resource Center. The Roadmap outlined the strategy activities required to transition to digital measurement.

CMS has released an update to its definition of a digital quality measure (dQM). CMS' definition of a dQM is available on the eCQI Resource Center at:

https://ecqi.healthit.gov/dqm?qt-tabs_dqm=1

The dQM definition consists of four parts. It:

- 1) Describes CMS' goal for digital quality measurement and how dQMs contribute to a learning health system.
- 2) Defines CMS digital quality measures and explains how dQMs hinge on standards and software solutions for interoperability.
- 3) Provides examples of digital data sources.
- 4) Shares how CMS is taking initial steps to go digital, starting with CMS electronic clinical quality measures (eCQMs) that use the Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR®) standard.

CMS encourages users to explore the Digital Quality Measurement webpage on the eCQI Resource Center, where you will find:

- CMS' definition of a digital quality measure
- A graphic showing a visualization of the components of a dQM definition
- Supplemental reference briefs to explain concepts referred to in the dQM definition:
 - 1) Leveraging Data Standardization for Digital Quality Measures (dQMs): This brief describes how data standards facilitate the exchange of information across systems using FHIR®, US Core Data for Interoperability (USCDI), USCDI+ Quality standards, and the pathways across collaborative organizations for advancing standardization.
 - 2) Digital Quality Measurement & eCQMs: This brief describes the current-state CMS eCQM structure and purpose, the goals of digital quality measurement, and the transition of CMS Quality Data Model (QDM)-eCQMs to CMS FHIR®-eCQMs as a first phase of CMS' digital quality journey.

The dQM definition webpage also includes links to relevant resource pages including the CMS Digital Quality Measurement Strategic Roadmap, and additional tools and resources.