

June 4, 2018


Dear NCQA Customers,

NCQA is planning to move our existing data submission file format to a simpler and more efficient layout.

Currently, each HEDIS Volume 2 measure has a collection of unique variable names that can be hard to configure and maintain. For example, the Antibiotic Utilization (ABX) measure has 1,140 unique variable names, which the Interactive Data Submission System (IDSS) uses to display, calculate and perform data validations.

Beginning with the HEDIS 2020 data collection season, data for reported measures will be collected in a new format. Specifications will be published in 2019. With the new format, the data elements under the measures will be more relational, modular, reusable and meaningfully named and structured.

The sample xml snippet below shows how the *Breast Cancer Screening* measure is currently structured (on the left), and how it will be structured for HEDIS 2020 (on the right).



```

<measure id="bcs" measure-version-id=
  <data-elements>
    <data-element id="myear">
      <value>2017</value>
    </data-element>
    <data-element id="collmeth">
      <value>A</value>
    </data-element>
    <data-element id="eligtot">
      <value>582</value>
    </data-element>
    <data-element id="nuexc">
      <value>3</value>
    </data-element>
    <data-element id="nuadmtot">
      <value>407</value>
    </data-element>
    <data-element id="nusup">
      <value>0</value>
    </data-element>
  </data-elements>
  </measure>
  </pre>


```

<BCS>
 <Metadata>
 <MeasurementYear>2017</MeasurementYear>
 <CollectionMethod>A</CollectionMethod>
 </Metadata>
 <BreastCancerScreening>
 <EligiblePopulation>582</EligiblePopulation>
 <NumeratorByAdmin>407</NumeratorByAdmin>
 <NumeratorBySupplemental>0</NumeratorBySupplemental>
 <ExclusionAdminOptional>3</ExclusionAdminOptional>
 </BreastCancerScreening>
</BCS>
 </pre>

```


```

Data points for measures with different stratifications will be gathered in groups such as age, gender and socioeconomic status. Stratification and types may vary, based on measure specifications. The sample xml snippet below shows how the *Ambulatory Care* measure is currently structured (on the left), and how it will be restructured in the new format (on the right).

```
<measure id="amba" measure-version-id="02012018-0005-:
  <data-elements>
    <data-element id="er1">
      <value>839</value>
    </data-element>
    .
    .
    <data-element id="mm1">
      <value>31742</value>
    </data-element>
    .
    .
    <data-element id="op1">
      <value>26302</value>
    </data-element>
    .
    .
  </data-elements>
</measure>
```



```
<AMBa>
  <Metadata>
    <MeasurementYear>2017</MeasurementYear>
  </Metadata>
  <Stratification Type="Age" Range="Under1">
    <Emergency>
      <Numerator>839</Numerator>
      <Denominator>31742</Denominator>
    </Emergency>
    <Outpatient>
      <Numerator>26302</Numerator>
      <Denominator>31742</Denominator>
    </Outpatient>
  </Stratification>
  .
  .
</AMBa>
```

NCQA will continue to share information with you about these changes throughout 2018 and 2019.

If you have questions about the new submission layout, contact Data Collection by submitting a request through the my.ncqa.org portal.

Thank you for your continued commitment to accountability and health care quality improvement.

Sincerely,

Garcene Duckett, MSIS
Assistant Director, Data Collection