



NEMSQA Measure Development Frequently Asked Questions

How is the National Quality Forum (NQF) involved in your measure development process? NEMSQA used guidance and information from NQF to build our measure development process, to ensure measures developed and released through the Alliance meet the rigorous standards of the measurement community. NEMSQA's measure development process completely independent of the NQF and the NQF has no involvement in the Alliance's work. However, there is opportunity to for NEMSQA to submit measures to NQF for endorsement.

Why aren't the measures in NEMSQA's current measure set endorsed by NQF? Measure development is a rigorous and time-intensive process, which includes annual maintenance and updates based on data collected over time. While NEMSQA is interested in pursuing NQF endorsement for our measures, the measures in the current measure set are not yet mature enough to be considered for endorsement. NEMSQA will continue to use the lifecycle approach in the Measure Development Process to strengthen these measures in preparation for NQF submission.

How long will it take for NEMSQA to have NQF endorsed measures in its measure set? This process will likely take 2-3 years, depending on the quality of data, testing results, and substantive changes made during annual maintenance periods.

Will all of NEMSQA's measures be submitted to NQF for endorsement? While NEMSQA is committed to developing meaningful quality measures to improve patient care, not all measures are meant for NQF endorsement. A measure may be an excellent model for quality and process improvement but may not have the highest grades of evidence, scientific acceptability, and feasibility to receive endorsement. However, these measures can still make significant impacts in the care and outcomes of EMS patients.

Why should my agency use a measure if it does not have NQF endorsement? While NQF endorsement recognizes measures that are of the highest standard, NEMSQA is committed to ensuring all measures in our measure set are valuable to improving patient processes and care. There are many measures in existence in the measurement community that are not NQF endorsed, and these measures are still useful for improving patient care.

Where can I learn more about NQF endorsement? More information on the NQF endorsement process can be found on the [NQF Website](#).

Why will new versions of NEMSQA's measures be released each year? In order to ensure NEMSQA's measures continue to be evidence-based, scientifically acceptable, and feasible, each measure in the measure set will undergo maintenance on an annual basis. Changes in specifications, sometimes substantive, may be made during maintenance periods. These changes are made to ensure our measures stay relevant and usable for the EMS community.