This issue brief describes available HIV-related quality measures and how they are currently being used to monitor the delivery of HIV care by federal programs. This information is intended to support the implementation of HIV quality measures across public and private insurers and health care systems as health care coverage is expanded.

1) **Why are clinical quality measures important for health care reform and the National HIV/AIDS Strategy?**

In the rapidly evolving health care landscape, uptake and utilization of HIV-related clinical quality measures will be important for promoting standards of health care coverage that support adherence to current [HIV clinical guidelines](#) and federal guidelines. As patients’ insurance status changes with implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), it will be critical to track a standardized set of quality measures across patient populations and public and private insurers to monitor access to high quality HIV care.

In July 2013, President Obama announced the [HIV Care Continuum Initiative](#). The goal of the initiative is to leverage federal resources to improve outcomes along the HIV care continuum, from testing, to linkage to and retention in care, to viral suppression. A key component will be to establish and deploy standard core indicators for monitoring federally funded HIV prevention, treatment, and care services. Clinicians should expect to see increased focus among key federal agencies, including the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), on aligning and coordinating their efforts to maximize outcomes along the HIV care continuum.

2) **What HIV-related clinical quality measures are available?**

Several federal programs are utilizing HIV-related clinical quality measures in their reportable measure portfolios. The chart below tracks seven core indicators that the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has identified to track across federally funded HIV programs. To see definitions of the measures, follow the links to each measure set included in the column headings of the chart.

The U.S. Preventative Services Task Force now recommends routine HIV screening for all people between the ages of 15 and 65, which means most health plans will be required to cover routine HIV screening at no cost to the patient. A routine HIV screening measure has not yet been developed, but the CDC is in the process of developing an HIV screening measure that will be an important tool for monitoring implementation of routine HIV screening.
3) **What are the key federal programs that collect data on HIV-related quality measures?**

**Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS):** CMS’s PQRS program provides an incentive payment to practices with Eligible Providers (EPs) that satisfactorily report data on quality measures for covered Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) services furnished to Medicare Part B Fee-for-Service (FFS) beneficiaries. It also entails escalating penalties for failure to satisfactorily report PQRS quality measures, starting with a 1.5 percent payment penalty in 2015 that increases to 2 percent in 2016 and subsequent years.

**Electronic Health Record (EHR) “Meaningful Use” Incentive Program:** CMS’s Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs provide incentive payments to eligible professionals, eligible hospitals, and critical access hospitals (CAHs) as they adopt, implement, upgrade, or demonstrate meaningful use of certified EHR technology. Eligible professionals can receive up to $44,000 through the Medicare EHR Incentive Program and up to $63,750 through the Medicaid EHR Incentive Program. To align the PQRS with the Medicare EHR Incentive Program, all clinical quality measures available for reporting under the Medicare EHR Incentive Program will be included in the 2013 PQRS for purposes of reporting data on quality measures under the EHR-based reporting option. The Medicaid EHR Incentive Program is voluntarily offered by 43 states and territories, and more states are expected to begin offering the program. You can check the status of your state using this [online chart](#) (PDF).
Health Resources and Services Administration HIV/AIDS Bureau (HRSA/HAB): HRSA/HAB is updating its portfolio of performance measures to streamline and harmonize their metrics with other federal measures programs. The HAB voluntary measures can be used by Ryan White Program grantees at either the provider or system level. They can be used in their current format or further modified to meet agency needs. Grantees are encouraged to select measures that are most important to their agencies and the populations they serve. HAB also provides technical assistance with quality improvement programs and planning.

4) Who are some of the key players in the development, endorsement, and maintenance of HIV clinical quality measures?

National Quality Forum (NQF): NQF contracts with CMS to convene a consensus process for identification of key priority measures and gaps and for endorsement of measures submitted by various measure developers. NQF endorsement is not a requirement for CMS adoption of a measure, but it is strongly encouraged. NQF members include purchasers, physicians, nurses, hospitals, certification bodies, and fellow quality improvement organizations.

National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA): NCQA is a health care quality improvement organization that works with stakeholders to develop clinical quality measures. NCQA submits its measures for review and consideration of endorsement by the NQF. The NCQA also accredits, certifies, and recognizes health plans and health care organizations that meet annual quality reporting standards. This includes a patient-centered medical home recognition program and an accreditation program for health plans participating in the new Health Insurance Exchange Marketplaces. In addition, the NCQA manages and annually updates the Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS), which is used to compare health plan performance and as a standardized measure in internal quality improvement activities.

Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement (PCPI): The American Medical Association-convened PCPI is a national, physician-led program that brings together expert panels to develop evidence-based performance measures that are clinically meaningful, meet the current and future needs of the PCPI membership, and are used in national accountability and quality improvement programs.

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ): AHRQ maintains a National Quality Measures Clearinghouse (NQMC), which includes the HHS Measure Inventory, a repository of measures currently being used by HHS agencies for quality measurement, improvement, and reporting.

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1 NQF measure 2080 replaces NQF 0403, though 0403 remains the measure that is included in CMS's Final Stage II EHR Meaningful Use Rule (to be updated in future rule-making).
2 NQF measure 2082 replaces NQF 0403, though 0407 remains the measure that is included in CMS's Final Stage II EHR Meaningful Use Rule (to be updated in future rule-making).
3 NQF replaced 0406 with 2083, which defines HIV antiretroviral therapy “as any combination of HIV medications other than the regimens or components identified as not recommended at any time by the Panel on Antiretroviral Guidelines for Adults and Adolescents. Guidelines for the use of antiretroviral agents in HIV-1-infected adults and adolescents from the Department of Health and Human Services,” rather than trying to define “potent ART” as specified in measure 0406. (NQF National Voluntary Consensus Standards: Infectious Disease Endorsement Maintenance Final Report, January 2013)
4 EPs under the Medicare EHR Incentive Program include: doctors of medicine or osteopathy, doctors of dental surgery or dental medicine, doctors of podiatry, doctors of optometry, and chiropractors. EPs under the Medicaid EHR Incentive Program are physicians (primarily doctors of medicine and doctors of osteopathy), dentists, nurse practitioners, certified nurse midwives, and physician assistants practicing in a Federally Qualified Health Center led by a physician assistant or Rural Health Clinic.
Learn More

HIVMA's Practice Guidelines
http://www.hivma.org/HIV_Guidelines/

Federal HIV/AIDS Treatment Guidelines
http://aidsinfo.nih.gov/guidelines

Infectious Diseases Society of America’s “Manage Your Practice” Resources
http://www.idsociety.org/manage_your_practice.aspx

“Measuring What Matters: Development of Standard HIV Core Indicators Across the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services” (Public Health Reports article)
http://publichealthreports.org/issueopen.cfm?articleID=3004

“What HIV Quality Care Measures Mean for Your Practice” (HCPLive article)
http://www.hcplive.com/conferences/idsa-2010/What-HIV-Quality-Care-Measures-Mean-for-Your-Practice#sthash.34KV1E2s.dpuf

HIVQUAL Continuous Quality Program (HRSA-Sponsored)
http://hab.hrsa.gov/deliverhivaidscare/hivqual.html

HRSA/HAB HIV Performance Measures
http://hab.hrsa.gov/deliverhivaidscare/habperformmeasures.html

HRSA/HAB National Quality Center (Technical Assistance Resource)
http://nationalqualitycenter.org/index.cfm/5852

HHS's Seven Common Core Indicators for Monitoring HHS-funded HIV Prevention, Treatment, and Care Services
http://blog.aids.gov/2012/08/secretary-sebelius-approves-indicators-for-monitoring-hhs-funded-hiv-services.html

HIV Open Data Project Evaluation (HHS/OAIDP-Sponsored)
http://www.norc.org/Research/Projects/Pages/hiv-open-data-project-evaluation.aspx

Monitoring HIV Care in the United States: Indicators and Data Systems (IOM, 3/2012)

U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) Recommendation on HIV Screening
http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/uspsf/uspshivi.htm

National Quality Forum (NQF)
http://www.qualityforum.org/Home.aspx

NQF-Endorsed Infectious Diseases Measures (2012)
http://www.qualityforum.org/Publications/2013/06/Infectious_Disease_Endorsement_Maintenance.aspx

National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA)
http://www.ncqa.org/AboutNCQA.aspx

AMA Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement (PCPI)

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)
http://www.qualityindicators.ahrq.gov/