

DIGITAL BYTES



A monthly byte into the latest digital health solutions news

Aligning quality measures across CMS— The Universal Foundation

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On July 14, the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) hosted a webinar discussing the newly formed Universal Foundation and its importance. Speakers emphasized the need for a digital health ecosystem that captures the nuances of clinical reporting with clear, standardized measures.¹ The Universal Foundation has identified nearly 2 dozen preliminary measures across 10 domains. New measures will better reflect the importance of high-quality preventive care as well as controlling blood pressure and HbA1c levels.²

The Universal Foundation was formed to align quality measures between programs and offer standardized measures that lend themselves to interoperable digital data. In addition, quality measures will emphasize provider attention, reduce burden, identify disparities in care, prioritize the development of interoperable digital quality measures, allow for cross-comparisons across programs, and help identify measurement gaps.²

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) oversees more than 20 quality programs and uses more than 500 quality measures for reporting and performance evaluation. Measures are inconsistent, complex, and often redundant across programs, making it challenging for fair comparisons regarding equity. Providers also need clarification on the most meaningful measures and are often overburdened by their complexity.¹

For information about Sanofi's commitment to delivering evidence-based digital health solutions that serve the whole patient, contact your Account Director or visit digitalhealthcaresanofi.com

References: 1. National Committee for Quality Assurance. The CMS Universal Foundation to align quality measures: what it means for you. Webinar. July 14, 2023. Accessed July 18, 2023. <https://www.ncqa.org/videos/the-cms-universal-foundation-to-align-quality-measures-what-it-means-for-you/> 2. Jacobs DB, Schreiber M, Seshamani M, Tsai D, Fowler E, Fleisher LA. Aligning quality measures across CMS—the Universal Foundation. *N Engl J Med*. 2023;388(9):776-779.

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THE PAYER PERSPECTIVE:

- In their *NEJM* article, the CMS expressed their intent to gather suggestions from the healthcare industry and the public to align their measures. This presents an exclusive chance for payers who utilize digital health solutions to contribute their data and assist in shaping measures
- By facilitating the use of digital health solutions, payers may influence the trajectory of quality measures and ensure more accurate reimbursements
- Future quality measures may also include the natural benefits of digital health solutions by focusing on health outcomes and care processes while promoting excellence in access, timeliness, and appropriateness of various conditions

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