

Introducing NQMBC 2.0 and Important Information for Participants

The National Quality Measures for Breast Centers was the first quality program with immediate feedback for Breast Centers. The idea crystallized into an active web based program in 2005 and has had hundreds of breast centers participate over the years. Although we've edited the program intermittently over this time period, we decided to make a major update and change in both the content and program functionality. At the end of this three year process, we are excited to gradually unveil our new program that has many new and needed improvements.

Upgrades found in NQMBC 2.0

- We have reorganized the program into disciplines of quality breast care. They are: imaging, pathology, surgery, medical oncology, and radiation oncology.
- We expect to add the disciplines of navigation, genetics and administration soon.
- Our existing list of quality measures has been completely updated.
- With the changes in breast care, we've added many new measures addressing issues that are current and pertinent to all breast centers.
- We've identified measures that will be retired over the next year. These measures were either hard to abstract, difficult to understand, are not relevant in today's breast center, or simply unpopular.
- We've kept many measures that have been valuable to our sites, some with minor wording changes to reflect current therapeutic flow.
- We've develop relationships with software vendors who work with breast centers and hospitals to offer direct upload of the measures at the desire of the NQMBC participant. Certified Software Companies will be able to automatically calculate answers to our measures and if the participant allows, can directly upload the quality measure to the NQMBC. This saves the time and effort to obtain, abstract, calculate and submit measures to this program. Sites will be able to get immediate feedback and achieve award status much more easily.
- We've developed a public website where interested parties can view the potential of this program.
- Finally, all Facility members of NCBC are eligible to participate in this program without any charge beyond their Facility membership status.

NQMBC 2.0 story in detail:

Background:

We have followed the participation by our NQMBC participants since 2005. Although there have been some changes in the program, the basic list of quality measures hasn't changed much. During this time, there are some measures that have been difficult for our participants to abstract. Still others have particular concerns in concept of the measure. In addition, some of these same measures were also those measures our participants felt were not as essential to improving quality of breast care. At this time, we've heard our membership and have identified several measures which will be gradually closed (transitioned out of the database) for new data accrual. We will keep the existing data and develop reports on these measures to gain useful information for our membership. Yet, to keep current with the changing character of our medical field, we will stop collecting data on these measures. Data will be closed at the end of 2019.

Retired Measures

The 15 measures that are being retired at the end of 2019 are measures:

- # 3 (Surgical Timeliness of open surgical biopsy),
- # 8 (Pathology timeliness of open surgical biopsy reporting),
- # 14 (Pathology complete submission of lumpectomy tissue),
- # 18, 19, 20, 21, 22 (All dealing with patient satisfaction surveys),
- # 23b (Eligible candidates for Breast Conservation),
- # 24b (Eligible candidates for Chemotherapy),
- # 25b (Potential patients for radiation therapy),
- # 27 (Break in Radiation Treatment,
- # 28 (Complication in Reconstruction,
- # 29 (Complication during chemotherapy),
- # 30 (Ambulatory surgery unplanned overnight stay).

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Popular Measures to Remain

Upon reviewing our measures with the goal of keeping them current with the changes in breast care, we've kept 21 measures but have slightly edited some of them. The edits are minor and don't change the essence of the quality measure so we will continue to add onto data to the existing database. We will note the changes and the date of change of any words or terms in the determination of numerator and denominator. We have been pleased at the brisk participation in these measures over the years and believe that data from these quality measures improve the overall care of our breast center patients.

These measures include: 1- 2, 4-7, 9-13, 15-17, 23a, 24a, 25a, 26a, 26b, 31.

New Quality Measures to be added:

In the long process of reviewing these quality measures and asking our expert panel what was missing in our quality assessments, we found several areas that should be added to make our quality program more representative of a comprehensive breast center. We have added 15 new measures to our multispecialty set of clinicians. Most of these measures are being added to current disciplines and some are in two disciplines as the quality metric impacts more than one discipline. The disciplines are Imaging, Pathology, Surgery, Medical Oncology, and Radiation Oncology. In the future we will be adding more disciplines found in the breast center including Navigation, Genetics and Administration.

Attached you will find the complete list of the measures indicating:

- Measures that have had some edits and you will want to closely review how you are running your data
- Measures that have been retained with no changes
- Measures that will be retired end of 2019
- New measures that have been added

Transition Process:

- Users can continue/begin reporting on the existing as well as the new measures immediately

- Users are asked to carefully review retained edited measures, as the changes made will affect how the measures are calculated
- The retired measures will be available for reporting until the end of 2019. Starting Jan 2020, they will not be available for reporting, although past reported data will still be available for viewing.
- For 2019, there will be a total of 53 measures available for data submission/reporting. Participants can select for reporting as many measures as they'd like.
- For 2020, with the retirement of 15 measures, there will be a total of 38 measures available for reporting.

Certification Qualifications:

- For 2019, a center can achieve/maintain a certification level by meeting the 2018 certification % and performance requirements. If a center reports on any new measures, as it will take a year or two to have enough compare data, the center will just submit data. There won't be a performance level requirement yet.
- New certification requirements will go into effect in 2020 which will require same % of measures reported. Most certification levels just required a couple additional measures to report.

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If you are a current participant in the NQMBBC, we welcome you to NQMBBC 2.0. If you are a past participant or have never participated, please check us out and consider participating in this universal quality program. For questions please contact us at: