

## Clinicians Not Capturing and Documenting Key Quality Measures for Reporting

### Potential Action Items

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- Add molecular testing results to cancer registry as structured data fields
- Improve documentation around specific National Quality Forum (NQF), American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), Quality Oncology Practice Initiative (QOPI) or other validated quality measures
- Revise progress notes templates or add tabs / fields / sections so that nurses and physicians are consistently documenting information in EHR
- Include document of completion for molecular testing, along with test results
- Define process or create a template to assure inclusion of documentation of the reason for not completing testing

### Ideas for Process Improvement

Established as part of the Affordable Care Act, the National Quality Strategy is led by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality on behalf of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.<sup>[1]</sup> The National Quality Strategy is guided by three aims:

1. Better Care: Improve the overall quality, by making health care more patient-centered, reliable, accessible, and safe.
2. Healthy People/Healthy Communities: Improve the health of the U.S. population by supporting proven interventions to address behavioral, social and, environmental determinants of health in addition to delivering higher-quality care.
3. Affordable Care: Reduce the cost of quality health care for individuals, families, employers, and government.

Most medical oncologists are familiar and comfortable with clinical practice guidelines and treatment algorithms developed by the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) and the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN). However, many oncologists remain less familiar with the oncology-specific quality measures endorsed by the National Quality Forum (NQF). In 2004, the Commission on Cancer (CoC) submitted oncology quality measures to the NQF. Since then, the NQF has been facilitating discussions to synchronize quality measures among the CoC, ASCO, and NCCN to ensure that a unified set is utilized.

Several centers noted that they were in the practice of routinely modifying and updating their EHR progress notes templates to capture key NQF-endorsed measures in oncology, such as:

#### Measure # Measure Title

- 0386 Oncology: Cancer Stage Documented
- 0455 Recording of Clinical Stage Prior to Surgery for Lung Cancer or Esophageal Cancer Resection
- 0457 Recording of Performance Status prior to Lung or Esophageal Cancer Resection
- 2020 Adult Current Smoking Prevalence
- 0383 Oncology: Plan of Care for Pain - Medical Oncology and Radiation Oncology
- 0208 Family Evaluation of Hospice Care

More information about these NQF Quality Measures can be found [here](#).

Medical oncologists also found that it was beneficial to incorporate elements of the ASCO Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer Treatment Plan into their electronic health record templates. This plan can be found [here](#).

Oncologists and pathologists also collaborated to find an effective way to document and track lung cancer patients who were eligible for molecular testing, molecular tests ordered, molecular test results, and special explanations if/when molecular testing was not ordered.

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## References

[1]The National Quality Strategy: [www.ahrq.gov/workingforquality](http://www.ahrq.gov/workingforquality).