

# **NQF 0041: Preventive Care Screening - Influenza Immunization for Patients > 50 Years Old**

## **Clinical Quality Measure Quick Reference Guide and Technical Supplement**

### **Provided By:**

The National Learning Consortium (NLC)

### **Developed By:**

Health Information Technology Research Center (HITRC)

*The material in this document was developed by Regional Extension Center staff in the performance of technical support and EHR implementation. The information in this document is not intended to serve as legal advice nor should it substitute for legal counsel. Users are encouraged to seek additional detailed technical guidance to supplement the information contained within. The REC staff developed these materials based on the technology and law that were in place at the time this document was developed. Therefore, advances in technology and/or changes to the law subsequent to that date may not have been incorporated into this material.*

## NATIONAL LEARNING CONSORTIUM

The National Learning Consortium (NLC) is a virtual and evolving body of knowledge and tools designed to support healthcare providers and health IT professionals working towards the implementation, adoption and meaningful use of certified EHR systems.

The NLC represents the collective EHR implementation experiences and knowledge gained directly from the field of ONC's outreach programs ([REC](#), [Beacon](#), [State HIE](#)) and through the [Health Information Technology Research Center \(HITRC\)](#) Communities of Practice (CoPs).

The following resource is an example of a tool used in the field today that is recommended by "boots-on-the-ground" professionals for use by others who have made the commitment to implement or upgrade to certified EHR systems.

## DESCRIPTION

The Clinical Quality Measure (CQM) quick reference guides provide a summary of key information for CQMs and are intended to be shared with clinical staff using an electronic health record (EHR). The first two sections may be distributed as stand-alone references.

The first section, *Quick Facts*, comes from the CQM e-specifications and is intended to provide an overview of the measure. This section provides information on the measure definition, whether the measure is a core, alternate core, or menu set measure, whether it is related to other measures by common data elements, and what data goes into a numerator, denominator, and exclusions or exceptions.

The second section, *Key Clinical Activities* and *Planning Your EHR Documentation*, is intended to be a space to plan EHR documentation. It provides a "to-do list" of clinical and documentation activities for the measure and lists each data element that is required to calculate the numerator, denominator, and exceptions or exclusions. Providers can use this space to assign individuals or roles to tasks in the to-do list.

The third section, *Technical Supplement*, provides clarifications regarding what "counts" toward this measure. First, it provides English "translations" of the numeric SNOMED-CT, HL7, ICD, and CPT codes that may be used in this measure. Second, it includes clarifications on what constitutes a numerator "hit" or a denominator exclusion based on questions that have arisen during technical assistance calls.

To access the official electronic specifications, visit the CMS Electronic Specifications page <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/QualityMeasures/ElectronicSpecifications.html> and locate the "EP Measure Specifications" zip file, which contains electronic specifications for all 44 Stage 1 Meaningful Use clinical quality measures.

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# NQF 0041: Preventive Care and Screening: Influenza Immunization for Patients ≥ 50 Years Old

Percentage of patients aged 50 years and older who received an influenza immunization during the flu season (September through February).

Quick Facts	
Type of measure: core, alternate core, or menu?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alternate core measure</li> </ul>
Related to other measures?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not related to other Stage 1 MU clinical quality measures</li> </ul>
Data required to identify the <u>denominator</u> (total cases eligible to be counted in measure)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Age</li> <li>• Encounter codes<sup>1</sup></li> </ul>
Data required to identify the <u>exceptions or exclusions</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reason influenza vaccine not administered: (patient reason, medical reason, system reason, contraindication, declined, egg allergy)<sup>2</sup></li> </ul>
Data required to identify the <u>numerator</u> (cases in which the process or outcome being measured occurred)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Influenza vaccine (either as medication or procedure)<sup>3</sup></li> </ul>

**Note:** This document is meant to supplement and not replace the official electronic specifications for the measure. To access the official specifications, please visit: <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/QualityMeasures/ElectronicSpecifications.html>

Key Clinical Activities		Planning Your EHR Documentation	
To-Do List	Why Needed?	Data Elements Needed	Responsible Person or Role
1. <b>Confirm the patient's date of birth</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensures only patients who are 50 years and over at the start of the measurement period are included in the <b>denominator</b>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Date of birth</li> </ul>	
2. <b>Record the date and type of visit</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensures only appropriate visits are captured in the <b>denominator</b>. For this measure, two or more encounters are required within the measurement period and one encounter must be during the influenza season.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dates of visits</li> <li>• Codes for outpatient, preventive medicine, nursing facility or nursing discharge encounters<sup>4</sup></li> </ul>	

<sup>1</sup> This data element(s) must be documented before or simultaneous to the measurement period

<sup>2</sup> This data element(s) must be documented before or simultaneous to the encounter

<sup>3</sup> This data element(s) must be documented during the encounter

<sup>4</sup> See Technical Supplement for denominator inclusion details (encounter types): pp. TS-2

Key Clinical Activities		Planning Your EHR Documentation	
To-Do List	Why Needed?	Data Elements Needed	Responsible Person or Role
3. <b>If vaccine not administered, document reason</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensures that the correct patients are identified as <b>exclusions or exceptions</b>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Documented patient reason, medical reason, system reason, influenza vaccine contraindicated, influenza vaccine declined, or allergy to eggs<sup>5</sup></li> </ul>	
4. <b>Document influenza vaccination activity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Captures influenza vaccination activity for the <b>numerator</b>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Documentation of influenza vaccination, either as medication or procedure<sup>6</sup> during influenza season.</li> </ul>	

<sup>5</sup> See Technical Supplement for exclusion or exception details (reasons vaccination not done): [pp. TS-3](#)

<sup>6</sup> See Technical Supplement for numerator inclusion details (vaccinations): [pp. TS-5](#)

## Technical Supplement

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The following pages list the technical definitions of the codes that could be included in the calculation of this measure. Use these lists as needed to confirm that your clinical documentation includes item(s) that are on this list, where appropriate, to ensure accurate calculation of your quality measure numerator and denominator.

## DENOMINATOR INCLUSION CRITERIA

### What constitutes an encounter? (CPT codes)

- Nursing facility discharge day management
- Initial nursing facility care, per day, for the evaluation and management of a patient, which requires these 3 key components: a comprehensive history, an examination, and medical decision making.
- Subsequent nursing facility care, per day, for the evaluation and management of a patient, which requires at least 2 of these 3 key components: a history, an examination, and medical decision making.
- Office or other outpatient visit for the evaluation and management of a new patient, which requires these 3 key components: a history, an examination, and medical decision making.
- Office or other outpatient visit for the evaluation and management of an established patient, which requires at least 2 of these 3 key components: a history, an examination, and medical decision making.
- Office consultation for a new or established patient, which requires these 3 key components: a history, an examination, and medical decision making.
- Domiciliary or rest home visit for the evaluation and management of a new patient, which requires these 3 key components: a history, an examination, and medical decision making.
- Domiciliary or rest home visit for the evaluation and management of a new patient, which requires at least 2 of these 3 key components: a history, an examination, and medical decision making.
- Home visit for the evaluation and management of a new patient, which requires these 3 key components: a history, an examination, and medical decision making.
- Home visit for the evaluation and management of an established patient, which requires 2 of these 3 key components: a history, an examination, and medical decision making.
- Initial comprehensive preventive medicine evaluation and management of an individual including an age and gender appropriate history, examination, counseling/anticipatory guidance/risk factor reduction interventions, and the ordering of laboratory/diagnostic procedures, new patient.
- Periodic comprehensive preventive medicine reevaluation and management of an individual including an age and gender appropriate history, examination, counseling/anticipatory guidance/risk factor reduction interventions, and the ordering of laboratory/diagnostic procedures, established patient.
- Preventive medicine counseling and/or risk factor reduction intervention(s) provided to individuals in a group setting (distinct from evaluation and management).
- Unlisted preventive medicine service
- Preventive medicine counseling and/or risk factor reduction intervention(s) provided to an individual (distinct from evaluation and management).

## EXCLUSION OR EXCEPTION CRITERIA

### What constitutes a patient reason for exclusion? (HL7 codes)

- The Patient requested the action
- Moved at the request of the patient.
- Client deceased.
- The patient is not (or is no longer) able to use the medication in a manner prescribed. Example: Can't swallow.
- The patient refused to take the product.
- The patient or their guardian objects to receiving the vaccine on religious grounds.
- The patient or their guardian objects to receiving the vaccine because of concerns over its safety.
- The intended vaccine has expired or is otherwise believed to no longer be effective. Example: Due to temperature exposure.
- Patient has compliance issues with medication such as differing appearance, flavor, size, shape or consistency.
- Patient changed their mind regarding obtaining medication

#### What constitutes a medical reason for exclusion? (HL7 codes)

- The therapy has been found to not have the desired therapeutic benefit on the patient.
- The underlying condition has been resolved or has evolved such that a different treatment is no longer needed.
- A new therapy will be commenced when current supply exhausted.
- Testing has shown that the patient already has immunity to the agent targeted by the immunization.
- The patient currently has a medical condition for which the vaccine is contraindicated or for which precaution is warranted.
- The prescribed product has specific clinical release or other therapeutic characteristics not shared by other substitutable medications.
- The patient has an intolerance to the medication.
- Patient has had a prior allergic intolerance response to alternate product or one of its components.
- The specific manufactured drug is part of a clinical trial.
- Contraindication identified

#### What constitutes a system reason for exclusion? (HL7 codes)

- Client was registered in error.
- When a client has no contact with the health system for an extended period, coverage is suspended. Client will be reinstated to original start date upon proof of identification, residency etc. Example: Coverage may be suspended during a strike situation, when employer benefits for employees are not covered (i.e. not in effect).
- The covered party (patient) specified with the Invoice is not correct.
- The policy specified with the Invoice is not correct. For example, it may belong to another Adjudicator or Covered Party.
- The billing information, specified in the Invoice Elements, is not correct. This could include incorrect costing for items included in the Invoice.
- The provider specified with the Invoice is not correct.
- In the case of 'substitution', indicates that the substitution occurred because the ordered item was not in stock. In the case of 'no substitution', indicates that a cheaper equivalent was not substituted because it was not in stock.
- Indicates that the decision to substitute or to not substitute was driven by a jurisdictional regulatory requirement mandating or prohibiting substitution.
- Indicates that the decision to substitute or to not substitute was driven by a desire to maintain consistency with a pre-existing therapy. I.e. The performer provided the same item/service as had been previously provided rather than providing exactly what was ordered, or rather than substituting with a lower-cost equivalent.
- Indicates that the decision to substitute or to not substitute was driven by a policy expressed within the formulary.
- Code assigned to indicate the rationale for not performing an evaluation investigation on a device for which a defect has been reported. Examples include: device received in a condition that made analysis impossible, device evaluation anticipated but not yet begun, device not made by company.
- Identifies the reason or rational for why a person is eligible for benefits under an insurance policy or program. Examples: A person is a claimant under an automobile insurance policy are client deceased & adopted client has been given a new policy identifier. A new employee is eligible for health insurance as an employment benefit. A person meets a government program eligibility criteria for financial, age or health status.
- The reason a referral was made. Examples: Specialized Medical Assistance, Other Care Requirements.
- The medication is no longer being manufactured or is otherwise no longer available.
- The manufacturer or other agency has requested that stocks of a medication be removed from circulation.
- The product does not have (or no longer has) coverage under the patients insurance policy.
- Patient must see prescriber prior to further fills.



#### What constitutes a system reason for exclusion? (HL7 codes)

- Patient no longer or has never been under this prescribers care.
- Original prescriber is no longer available to prescribe and no other prescriber has taken responsibility for the patient.
- Request for further authorization must be done through patient's family physician.
- Patient has already been given a new (renewal) prescription.
- Therapy has been changed and new prescription issued
- This medication is on hold.
- The patient should have medication remaining.
- There was no supply of the product on hand to perform the service.
- The information was recorded incorrectly or was recorded in the wrong record.
- The decision on which the recorded information was based was changed before the decision had an effect. Example: Aborted prescription before patient left office, released prescription before suspend took effect.
- Identifies the reason or rationale for coverage of a service or product based on coverage exclusions related to the risk of adverse selection by covered parties.
- Identifies the reason or rationale for coverage of a service or product based on financial participation responsibilities of the covered party.
- Identifies the reason or rationale for limitations on the coverage of a service or product based on coverage contract provisions. Example: The maximum cost per unit; or the maximum number of units per period, which is typically the policy or program effective time.
- Identifies the reason or rationale for coverage of a service or product based on characteristics of the provider, e.g., contractual relationship to payor, such as in or out-of-network; relationship of the covered party to the provider. Example: In closed managed care plan, a covered party is assigned a primary care provider who provides primary care services and authorizes referrals and ancillary and non-primary care services.
- Identifies the reason or rationale for coverage of a service or product based on clinical efficacy criteria or practices prescribed by the payer.
- Patient does not meet required protocol
- Patient not eligible for drug
- Provider is not authorized to prescribe or dispense
- The user does not have permission
- The target facility does not recognize the dispensing facility
- This product is not available or manufactured
- There is no match
- There is no match for the product in the master file repository
- There is no permission
- The agent does not have permission

#### What constitutes an allergy to eggs? (SNOMED-CT, CPT, ICD-9-CM codes)

- Egg protein allergy (disorder)
- Allergen extract vaccine adverse reaction (disorder)
- Vaccines adverse reaction (disorder)
- Influenza split virion vaccine adverse reaction (disorder)
- Influenza surface antigen vaccine adverse reaction (disorder)
- Influenza virus vaccine adverse reaction (disorder)
- Allergy to eggs

#### What constitutes Influenza vaccine contraindicated? (SNOMED-CT code)

- Influenza vaccination contraindicated (situation)

#### What constitutes Influenza vaccine declined? (SNOMED-CT code)

- Influenza vaccination declined (situation)

## NUMERATOR INCLUSION CRITERIA

#### What constitutes flu vaccination activity? (CPT codes codes)

- Influenza virus vaccine, split virus, preservative free, when administered to individuals 3 years and older, for intramuscular use
- Influenza virus vaccine, split virus, when administered to individuals 3 years of age and older, for intramuscular use
- Influenza virus vaccine, live, for intranasal use
- Influenza virus vaccine, derived from cell cultures, subunit, preservative and antibiotic free, for intramuscular use
- Influenza virus vaccine, split virus, preservative free, enhanced immunogenicity via increased antigen content, for intramuscular use
- Influenza virus vaccine, pandemic formulation

#### What constitutes flu vaccination activity? (CVX codes)

- Influenza TIV
- *Unknown code description*
- Influenza LAIV (FluMist)
- Novel Influenza-H1N1-09, nasal
- Novel Influenza-H1N1-09, preservative-free injection
- Novel Influenza-H1N1-09, injection
- Novel Influenza-H1N1-09, (unspecified)
- Influenza high dose (Fluzone)

#### What constitutes flu vaccination activity? (RxNorm codes)

- 0.5 ML Influenza Virus Vaccine, Inactivated
- Influenza Virus Vaccine, Inactivated A-Brisbane -59-2007, IVR-148 (H1N1) strain 0.03 MG/ML / Influenza Virus Vaccine, Inactivated A-Uruguay-716-2007, NYMC X-175C (H3N2) strain 0.03 MG/ML / Influenza Virus Vaccine, Inactivated B-Brisbane-60-2008 strain 0.03 MG/ML injectable suspension
- 0.25 ML Influenza Virus Vaccine, Inactivated A-Brisbane-59-2007, IVR-148 (H1N1) strain 0.03 MG/ML / Influenza Virus Vaccine, Inactivated A-Uruguay -716-2007, NYMC X-175C (H3N2) strain 0.03 MG/ML / Influenza Virus Vaccine, Inactivated B-Brisbane -60-2008 strain 0.03 MG/ML Prefilled Syringe

## TYPES OF CODES REQUIRED FROM YOUR EHR FOR CALCULATING THIS CLINICAL QUALITY MEASURE

NQF0041	CPT	CPT Modifier	CVX	Grouping	HCPCS	HL7	ICD-9*	ICD-10	LOINC	RxNorm	SNOMED*
Numerator <sup>1</sup>	×		×	×						×	
Denominator <sup>2</sup>	×			×		×					
Exceptions or exclusions <sup>3</sup>				×		×	×				×

- (Codes with an asterisk (\*) are required from certified EHRs)
- <sup>1</sup> To identify the numerators in this CQM, the following standard codes are required: a respective "procedure" or "medication" code found in CPT, CVX, RxNorm, or Grouping.
- <sup>2</sup> To identify the denominator in this CQM, the following standard codes are required: an "individual characteristic" code from HL7, AND an "encounter" code from CPT or Grouping.
- <sup>3</sup> To identify the exclusions in this CQM, the following standard codes are required: a "substance", "medication", "procedure" code in HL7, ICD-9, SNOMED or Grouping.

Abbreviation	Long Name	Definition/Description
CPT	Current Procedural Terminology	The CPT (Current Procedural Terminology) is produced by the American Medical Association (AMA). CPT codes are used to report medical procedures and services. (Source: CDC)
CVX	Codes for Vaccine Administered	This vocabulary provides terminology for Vaccine Administered. The vocabulary is defined in Health Level Seven (HL7) Version 2.5.1. (Source: USHIK)
HCPCS	Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System	Level I of the HCPCS is comprised of CPT (Current Procedural Terminology), a numeric coding system maintained by the American Medical Association (AMA). Level II of the HCPCS is a standardized coding system that is used primarily to identify products, supplies, and services not included in the CPT codes, such as ambulance services and durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics, and supplies (DMEPOS) when used outside a physician's office. (Source: CMS)
HL7	Health Level Seven	HL7 is an accredited ANSI standard organization that produces the HL7 messaging standard. It is the accepted messaging standard for communicating clinical data. It is supported by every major medical informatics system vendor in the US. (Source: ASPE)
ICD-9	International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 9th revision	The International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM) is based on the World Health Organization's Ninth Revision, International Classification of Diseases (ICD-9). ICD-9-CM is the official system of assigning codes to diagnoses and procedures associated with hospital utilization in the United States. The ICD-9 is used to code and classify mortality data from death certificates. (Source: CDC)

Abbreviation	Long Name	Definition/Description
ICD-10	International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 10th revision	The International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 10th Revision (ICD-10), published by the World Health Organization (WHO), is the foundation of ICD-10-CM. ICD-10 continues to be the classification used in cause-of-death coding in the United States. The ICD-10-CM is comparable with the ICD-10 (Source: CDC)
LOINC	Logical Observation Identifiers Names and Codes	A universal code system for identifying laboratory and clinical observations. (Source: LOINC)
RxNorm	RxNorm	RxNorm provides normalized names for clinical drugs and links its names to many of the drug vocabularies commonly used in pharmacy management and drug interaction software, including those of First Databank, Micromedex, MediSpan, Gold Standard Alchemy, and Multum. By providing links between these vocabularies, RxNorm can mediate messages between systems not using the same software and vocabulary. (Source: NLM NIH)
SNOMED-CT	Systematic Nomenclature of Medicine - Clinical Terms	SNOMED CT (Systematized Nomenclature of Medicine--Clinical Terms) is a comprehensive clinical terminology, originally created by the College of American Pathologists (CAP) and, as of April 2007, owned, maintained, and distributed by the International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation (IHTSDO), a not-for-profit association in Denmark. (Source: NLM NIH)

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