

# Spotlight on Core Measures



November 14, 2008

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*Spotlight on Core Measures is a news brief to provide the most current and up-to-date information on Core Measures for psychiatric facilities and answers to the most frequently asked questions.*

## Spotlight is moving to Technical Notes

Thank you for your readership and your interest in this important new set of quality of care measures. We are humbled by your devotion, your insightful questions, and your response to our news brief. We have decided to move Spotlight on Core Measures into our other monthly news brief Technical Notes. This will be the last independent issue of Spotlight.

Beginning in January 2009, Spotlight will appear as a "Corner" in Technical Notes that is also getting a new look with regular columns on key areas of the BHPMS system. Look for the new Technical Notes to be published the second Thursday of each month.



We will continue to bring you the latest news on the HBIPS core measure set and new learnings as we implement the final set. Questions specific about the core measure set can be sent to [CMInfo@nri-inc.org](mailto:CMInfo@nri-inc.org).

## Timeline Update

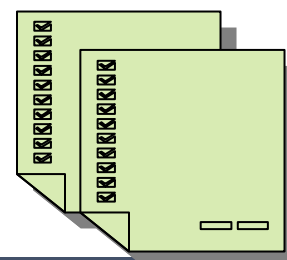
As noted in previous issues of Spotlight, The Joint Commission identified several steps in the approval process before it could make the HBIPS core set mandatory. The National Quality Forum (NQF) is scheduled to meet on December 3-4 at which time the HBIPS set will be reviewed. Once approved by NQF, the final step will be the submission of the set by The Joint Commission to the Hospital Quality Alliance (HQA) for consideration on their agenda. We will let you know when this is scheduled to occur.



Facilities should keep in mind that once a date for HQA review has been set, The Joint Commission will announce the mandatory start date for all free-standing psychiatric hospitals to adopt the HBIPS set.

## NRI Tool for Data Collection/Validation

NRI File Layout was released in October with new features to support data compilation and checking for the new core measure set requirements. The data entry forms for the core measure, episode core, and event files allow you to directly enter your data. This may



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be useful as you transition your computer systems to input the new data elements and extract this information.

Please note that the NRI File Layout is designed to hold only a single month of data at a time. If you need to use this application for longer storage, please contact our office for assistance – we would not want you to lose the valuable data you are compiling.

The Core Measure Set Data Abstraction form is provided as an illustration of an abstraction form that would gather all the required data for the core measure set. Facilities are not required to use the form. This form is not a “data source” – it is a transcription of data contained elsewhere in a client’s clinical record.

## Effective Date of Code Option Changes

If you have selected the core measure set for the October 1, 2008 reporting period, you must adopt all the coding changes and use the new episode core file (ec0).

If you have selected November or December to start core measures, you must adopt all the coding changes and use the new episode core file (ec0) at that time.

All facilities must adopt the new codes in the episode file (ep0) for the January 1, 2009 reporting period even if they are not selecting the core measure set.

Note that the new code options apply to all clients regardless of admission date. This is necessary to accommodate the clients included in the core measure set.

## October Call Notes and Frequently Asked Questions

**Updated Response to:** *What is expected for clients that transfer between units but the hospital is required to document these as discharges and admissions per CMS requirements?*

NRI posed the following to The Joint Commission. *I’ve been working with a number of our facilities around this issue of transfers among units within the facility and that CMS requires the hospital to discharge and re-admitted these clients. For the HBIPS set, our initial understanding was that the discharge data would be collected once when the client left the facility and the admission screening would be collected from when the client was first admitted to the psych care setting. When clients are moved to medical units or pure substance abuse treatment units, they would not be counted during those stays. When we talked last month, it seemed like we were trying to ask facilities to get the HBIPS data each time the client was technically discharged (because of CMS rules). Facilities are saying this is too difficult, will results in numerous records for a client who is being transferred in/out of medical care, screenings are not re-done each time there is a transfer, and transfer info is limited to medical needs. The published guide says to collect once when client is discharged from the*



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*hospital. Can I reassure facilities that the original guidance (collect once when client is discharged from the hospital) is how we are proceeding?*

Response from The Joint Commission: Yes, this is the original intent of the HBIPS discharge measures. As long as the medical record numbers can be linked to one hospitalization, the hospital can abstract in the manner you have outlined above.

*NRI start date versus The Joint Commission start date.*

Core Measure set can be selected for reporting to NRI at the beginning of any month. However, The Joint Commission requires selecting measures at the beginning of a quarter. Therefore, if you select a start date of November with NRI, your earliest start date with The Joint Commission is January.

Since the set is not mandatory yet, facilities can choose to start with NRI at any time. Facilities can report non-core measures to The Joint Commission until the change is required. This option may help facilities to evaluate their completeness of data, to preview their rates on these important measures, to evaluate their data abstraction processes, and to prepare for eventual public reporting of hospital and aggregate rates.

*What happens to non-core measures when choosing the Core Set?*

Non-core measures can continue to be reported to NRI and NRI will continue to provide control charts, comparison charts, and other reports based on these data. The Joint Commission will de-active the non-core measures when the facility registers for the core set.

*What happens to the test core measures data?*

The test core measures have an end date of September 30, 2008. They can not be used for either NRI or The Joint Commission. NRI elected to end these test measures coincident with The Joint Commission because of the major changes in definitions and it was felt that there would be conflict with trying to continue old measures while building capacity for the new measures. The test data will not be used in any report with the final set because of these differences.

*Are facilities that used the test set required to select the final set for October?*

Facilities can choose the final set or choose 9 non-core measures. Facilities must make one of these choices known to NRI and The Joint Commission. Effective October 1, 2008, facilities that participated in the test set have no active measures with The Joint Commission. There can not be a lapse in measures participation, so you must make your choice known as soon as possible.

*What are the Place Holders for in the new episode core file?*

The Place Holders are for "just in case" The Joint Commission decides it wants to add a data element. The data element requirements for the core set are determined by The Joint Commission so we felt it was better to imbed spaces that can be populated later than to have facilities need to increase the length of the file again. Also, if (probably when) CMS takes the set, CMS may require an additional element we need to add.

If you have a question, please email it to [CMInfo@nri-inc.org](mailto:CMInfo@nri-inc.org). Responses are provided for each question and will be summarized in the following issue of *Technical Notes, Spotlight on Core Measures Corner*.

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## Core Measure Set Conference Call Opening for General Education

**This call is open to all facilities.** The call is held the third Wednesday of each month, at 2 pm (Eastern). We strongly encourage facilities and states to join the call.

The monthly conference call has been such a success that we have decided to continue these calls as general educational sessions. We have had a number of requests to post recordings of these calls for the benefit of participating facilities that are not able to attend the session. We will begin by recording the November call and posting the audio. We are investigating using webinars as well when this would more easily convey the topic. We are interested in your feedback on this process including the call topics, the quality of the recording, the quality of handouts, ease of use, ... Please send comments to [TechSupport@nri-inc.org](mailto:TechSupport@nri-inc.org) with subject Monthly Conference Calls.



Call Date: November 19, 2008 at 2pm (ET).  
To join the call, please call: 1-888-296-6500, guest code 804535#

**Agenda: Using NRI Website for updates on core measure set, Insights from test sites moving forward, Q&A, Other topics for these educational calls**

**Please note that we will be sending a follow-up email notice the day prior to the call with links for handouts.**

*Thank you again for your readership. Look for improved Technical Notes and Monthly Education Calls beginning in January 2009. There will be no Spotlight or Conference Call in December.*

*NRI will continue to send bulletins to states and facilities and post updates on its website. Earlier bulletins related to the core measure set for hospital based inpatient psychiatric services are available on the NRI website: [www.nri-inc.org/projects/BHPMS/](http://www.nri-inc.org/projects/BHPMS/). If you have any questions concerning the core measure set, please contact me though email at [Lucille.Schacht@nri-inc.org](mailto:Lucille.Schacht@nri-inc.org).*



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