

# Navigating eCQM Reporting Challenges for Medicare ACOs

## A White Paper from Dynamic Health IT, Your Strategic Partner

Founded in 1999, Dynamic Health IT (DHIT) specializes in quality measure calculation and reporting. In addition to consulting services, DHIT provides our Dynamic FHIR API, CQMsolution and Dynamic Registry ONC-certified bolt-on software applications with flexible deployment and hosting options. Combined with a FHIR DataStore, our CQMsolution quality measure engine is coupled with our ACO dashboard for a complete end-to-end eCQM reporting solution for ACOs and UDS+.

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### Problem

In the landscape of healthcare, the rise of Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) within Traditional Medicare brings both opportunities and hurdles. As CMS incentivizes providers to join ACOs, the transition from fee-for-service to value-based care accelerates. However, alongside these shifts, significant challenges emerge, particularly in quality reporting.

ACOs, varying in size and structure, encounter difficulties in consolidating data from Electronic Health Record (EHR) systems due to financial constraints. Moreover, the requirement to report on all patients and payers burdens ACOs with increased patient loads for reporting, raising concerns regarding patient privacy and data sharing across different payers. Interoperability issues further complicate matters, as ACOs grapple with multiple EHR systems, hindering the aggregation and deduplication of patient data.

### Results

Dynamic Health IT (DHIT) stands ready to offer a comprehensive eCQM reporting solution tailored for ACOs, leveraging its CQMsolution® product. This solution accepts diverse data formats including FHIR resources or FHIR Bulk data from various EHR platforms, and integrates the data into a DataStore to aggregate and calculate eCQMs and Medicare CQMs. Looking ahead, the integration of FHIR is envisioned as a pivotal component of long-term solutions to these challenges.

In conclusion, this white paper underscores the multifaceted challenges faced by ACOs in quality reporting, emphasizing the need for innovative solutions amidst a changing regulatory landscape. Collaboration, adaptability, and technological prowess will be paramount as ACOs chart their course towards sustainable quality improvement initiatives.

### Solution

Despite these challenges, embracing electronic Clinical Quality Measure (eCQM) reporting holds promise for enhancing patient care and driving systemic improvements. Collaboration between ACOs, CMS, and industry partners is crucial in effectively addressing these obstacles.

Transitioning from the CMS Web Interface to broader quality reporting methods poses a significant shift for ACOs. With the cessation of the Web Interface in 2024, ACOs must adapt to reporting on larger patient populations using eCQMs, MIPS CQMs, or the newly introduced Medicare CQMs. The latter, exclusive to the Alternative Payment Model (APM) Performance Pathway, aims to alleviate data aggregation and patient matching issues faced by Shared Savings Program ACOs. By focusing reporting efforts solely on Medicare fee-for-service beneficiaries, ACOs can mitigate reporting burdens.

Additionally, ACOs may encounter Quality Reporting challenges aligned with the Uniform Data System (UDS), particularly for those providing services to underserved communities. While UDS reporting traditionally involves aggregated measures and patient counts, the integration of Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR) standards introduces the potential for voluntary submission of de-identified patient-level data. Despite HRSA's eventual requirement for FHIR-based reporting (UDS+), a definitive deadline remains pending.

As ACOs navigate these shifting reporting landscapes, reliance on manual chart-abstracting processes gives way to the imperative for advanced technical solutions. The transition to eCQM reporting, fueled by CMS directives and HRSA initiatives, necessitates a strategic approach to overcome resource limitations and operational barriers. A unified effort to leverage technological advancements and streamline reporting processes is essential for ACOs to thrive in the evolving healthcare ecosystem.

For more resources, see [CMS](#) & [UDS](#) Measures and Reporting requirements.