

The Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement®
Convened by the American Medical Association

**Guidance for Requesting Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement® (PCPI)
Review and Approval of Measures Developed Independently by PCPI Voting Members**

Introduction

The Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement (PCPI) promotes collaborative development of evidence-based clinical performance measures, convening topic-specific expert panels with multi-specialty and multi-disciplinary representation. This diversity of clinical expertise and perspectives is a feature of the PCPI process that provides broad input and support from the profession as the measures are moved forward to implementers and endorsers; PCPI members wishing to lead measures development are therefore always encouraged to do so through the PCPI's process. Additionally, this collaborative process has provided considerable external credibility to measures developed.

For PCPI members choosing to develop measures through a process *other than* the PCPI's, a means for including PCPI representation and requesting PCPI review and approval of the completed measures is outlined in this document. Providing this pathway to PCPI approval enables the PCPI to strengthen its support for the independent initiatives of its members while also meeting its obligation to uphold the methodology, consistency, and broad-based support for all clinical measures for health care professionals.

A. Background on Measure Development Collaboration

1. The PCPI promotes collaboration in all measures development activities through the PCPI process and using PCPI methodology, as outlined in the PCPI Rules and Procedures.
2. The PCPI promotes multi-specialty and multi-disciplinary representation in all PCPI measures development activities, including representatives of relevant non-PCPI organizations, consumers, purchasers, and health plans, as well as volunteers from among PCPI membership.
3. Some medical specialty societies, boards, and other voting PCPI members ("Developers") may choose to proceed with measures development work independent of the PCPI and may or may not choose to use the PCPI's methodology.
4. Prospective independent Developers are encouraged to work through the collaborative PCPI process. When such collaboration is not chosen by a Developer, that Developer's independent efforts may be supported by the PCPI, as outlined in this document.
5. Independent measure development capacity and capabilities of Developers may vary considerably, ranging from:
 - a. A lack of measure development infrastructure and a need for assistance from PCPI methodologists, staff, and/or consultants; to:

- b. A complete infrastructure and process for independent measure development, including all key elements of the PCPI's process.
6. Developers are encouraged to:
 - a. Consider the advantages of leading the measure development work through and in collaboration with the PCPI, using the PCPI process, and receiving attribution for the measures. In this case, the AMA would hold sole copyright in the measures, on behalf of the PCPI.
 - b. Under special circumstances, consider the option to share copyright jointly with the AMA, on behalf of the PCPI, on the measures developed for this topic (if opting to lead measure development work through the PCPI on a specific topic and sharing prior work on these measures). Joint copyright may be considered if the other party: (i) has substantial experience in measure development, or (ii) has completed considerable work in developing draft measures, or (iii) has an extenuating need to hold joint copyright. The PCPI Executive Committee considers individual requests to hold joint copyright for a specific PCPI measurement set (as described in the PCPI Copyright Policy).
7. Current PCPI governance documents do not provide for review or approval of measures developed through a process other than the PCPI's, nor do they provide for formal PCPI participation in measures development work conducted independent of the PCPI.

B. Process for Review/Approval of Measures Developed Independent of the PCPI

1. Developers choosing to develop measures through a process other than the collaborative PCPI process (as described in Section A above) may request PCPI review and approval of measures by submitting a formal request to the PCPI Chair and meeting the following requirements:
 - a. Be voting members of the PCPI.
 - b. Invite PCPI representation (as defined in Section B3. below) on their measure development panel at the beginning of the measure development process.
 - c. Defer publication of the completed measures until the PCPI review process is completed.
 - d. Include all elements of the PCPI's measure development process (eg, multi-specialty and multi-disciplinary inclusiveness of the measure development panel, consideration of existing guideline recommendations and the strength of evidence, development of technical specifications, consideration of potential use of measures for accountability, solicitation of public comments, periodic review and maintenance of measures; as outlined in Appendices I, II, and III of the PCPI Rules and Procedures).
 - e. Prior to the start of the measures development work, request advance review of the measure development process to be used and submit all preliminary research and background materials on the measurement topic (guidelines/evidence review, existing measures, data or other available evidence of gaps in care, etc.) to PCPI staff for review by the Measures Development, Methodology, and Oversight Advisory Committee (MDMO-AC).

2. If all requirements outlined in B1. above are met, the MDMO-AC will advise the Executive Committee as follows:
 - a. If the MDMO-AC recommends in favor of PCPI review, the Advisory Committee will refer the request to the Executive Committee, which will vote on the request and, if approved, will consider PCPI representation on the measure development panel and prioritize the request for initiation of the review/approval process. The PCPI Executive Committee will identify an appropriate PCPI representative (or representatives; see B3.) to participate in the Developer's measures development work and PCPI review and potential approval of the Developer's completed measures will be made available through the full PCPI voting process. Initiation of the review/approval process will be based on the availability of the PCPI representative(s) to participate in such activities.
 - b. If the MDMO-AC recommends against PCPI review and this recommendation is upheld by the Executive Committee, then staff will communicate this decision to the Developer.
3. At the discretion of the PCPI Executive Committee, PCPI representation on a non-PCPI measure development panel may include one or more individuals from the following categories:
 - a. An individual selected from PCPI membership with relevant clinical content and/or methodological expertise AND knowledge of the PCPI measure development and review process.
 - b. AMA staff with expertise/knowledge of the PCPI process.
4. PCPI representatives in either of the above mentioned categories in B3. may not assign copyright on behalf of the PCPI or the AMA.
5. PCPI approval or *non*-approval of any of Developer's measures will be decided upon through the usual PCPI voting process (either through email or in-person voting).
6. PCPI approval of any of Developer's measure(s) may be invalidated if any changes are made to the measures after PCPI approval is provided.
7. The PCPI will reconsider any non-approved measure(s) if the Developer's subsequent review and update of the measures addresses the reasons for the PCPI's non-approval.
8. Developer will include an indication of each measure's PCPI approval in any widely-disseminated or published version of the measures.
9. If all requirements outlined in B1. above are *not* met, PCPI representation will not be provided and PCPI review and approval of the Developer's completed measures will not be available.
10. At the discretion of the PCPI Executive Committee, Developers' measure development activities that are in progress or have been completed within 2007, will be evaluated by the Executive Committee for eligibility for review and approval. At the minimum, this work shall meet the requirements specified in a and d in Section B1. above, to be considered eligible for PCPI review and approval.

C. Process for PCPI Review and Voting

1. In addition to the advance review of the materials outlined in B1. and the approval by the MDMO-AC, the following process will be followed if the EC approves the Developer's request:
 - a. Developer shall notify PCPI staff when measures are made available for public comment to enable staff to plan for MDMO-AC and PCPI review
 - b. Developer shall provide the summary of public comments to PCPI staff, when distributed to the measure development panel.
 - c. When Developer submits final measures, they shall submit them to PCPI staff who will review them along with the PCPI representative(s) who participated on the measure development panel. The measures would then be sent to the MDMO-AC for review.
 - d. Upon review of the measures by the MDMO-AC, a recommendation will be made to the Executive Committee for voting on the measures. The Developer will be advised of the Executive Committee's decision.
 - e. If the Executive Committee approves the measures for a PCPI vote, the measures will go through the PCPI voting process as outlined in the PCPI Bylaws.

D. Approval, Licensing, and Implementation Recommendations

1. An affirmative (majority) PCPI vote on measures will result in PCPI "approval," not "endorsement."
2. PCPI review and approval of a Developer's measures will be considered for measurement topics that are not the same as or similar to topics for which measures are already developed or planned for development by the PCPI.
3. In consideration of PCPI "approval", Developer will need to agree with the AMA (on behalf of the PCPI) to (a) grant the AMA a royalty-free, perpetual license to distribute and license "approved" measures, along with PCPI measures, (b) indemnification of PCPI, (c) waive claims against PCPI for not approving measures, and (d) proper attribution of PCPI "approval" (and other legal requirements to protect the PCPI and its members).
4. Maintenance of the measures (eg, technical specifications, CPT II Code proposals, timeline for periodic review) will remain the responsibility of the Developer and a condition of initial approval of the measures.
5. When measures are reviewed/updated/revise, maintenance of PCPI approval will require that the Developer again meet the requirements outlined in B1. above; the same PCPI approval process will be followed.
6. The requirements and the process for PCPI review and approval of measures may be revised periodically by the Executive Committee following review and recommendations by staff. Developers requesting PCPI approval shall comply with the requirements and process in effect at the time of the request.

Approved by the PCPI Membership on October 5, 2007