

# CMS eCQM Strategy: The Future of eCQMs

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The MITRE Corporation operates the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Alliance to Modernize Healthcare (CAMH), a federally funded research and development center (FFRDC) dedicated to strengthening the nation's health care system. MITRE operates CAMH in partnership with CMS and the Department of Health and Human Services.



# Agenda

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- Welcome and Introductions
- Electronic Clinical Quality Measures (eCQM) Strategy Project Background
- Stakeholder Feedback Received to Date
- Audience Feedback – Gallery Walk

# Learning Objectives

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- Understand the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) eCQM Strategy project goals
- Learn the eCQM development and reporting pain points identified by industry stakeholders
- Provide feedback on eCQM lifecycle improvement opportunities

# eCQM Strategy Project: Background

# Project Problem Statement

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Providers participating in CMS quality and value-based purchasing programs have shared challenges they experience related to the complexity and high burden of electronic clinical quality measure (eCQM) implementation, data capture, and reporting.

# Project Scope

## ■ eCQM Development

- Starts with developing the eCQM measure concept
- Ends with measure readiness to submit to Measures Under Consideration (MUC) list

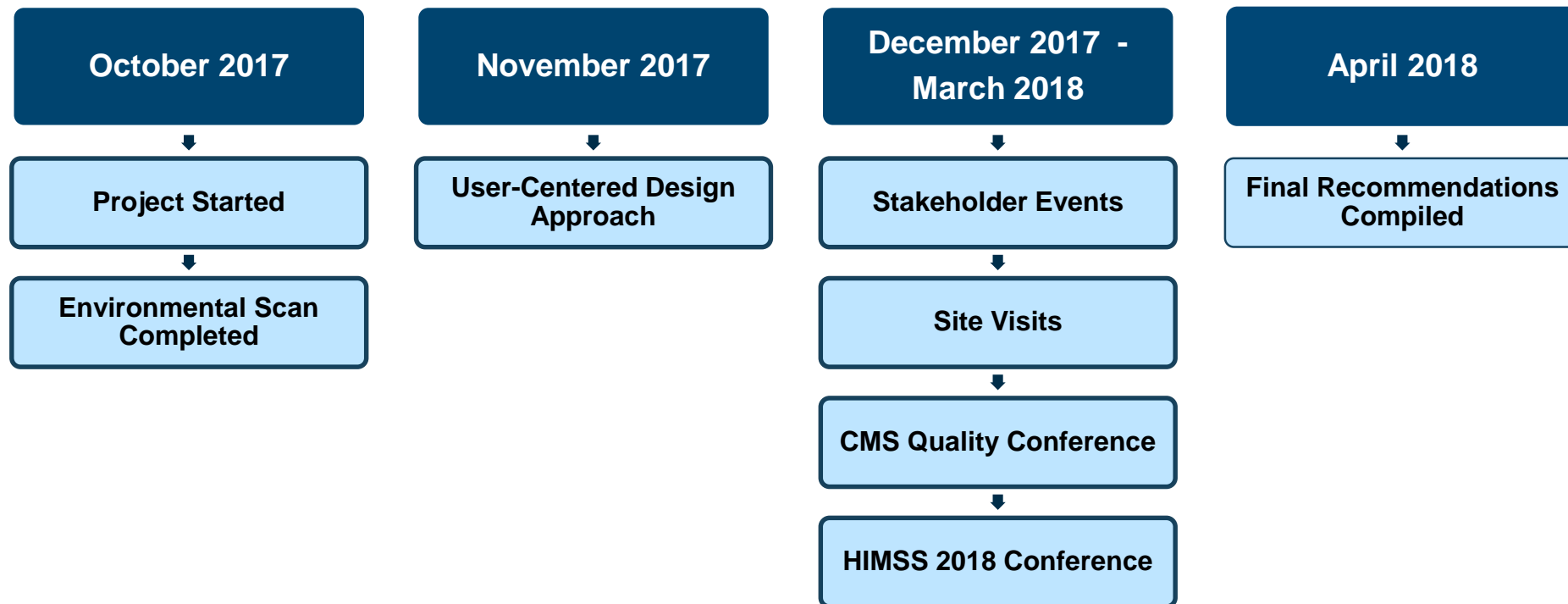
## ■ eCQM Reporting

- Will review processes and requirements for reporting eCQMs to CMS
- Will review processes related to eCQM clinical implementation and data capture

## ■ Tools for Development and Reporting

- Measure Authoring Tool (MAT), <https://www.emeasuretool.cms.gov/>
- Bonnie (open source eCQM logic testing tool), <https://bonnie.healthit.gov/>
- Cypress (open source EHR certification testing tool), <https://www.healthit.gov/cypress/>
- CMS Measures Under Development Inventory (located in CMS Measures Inventory), <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/QualityMeasures/CMS-Measures-Inventory.html>
- Pre-submission validation tools
- Other tool(s) innovations

# Project Timeline and Activities



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# **eCQM Strategy Project: Stakeholder Feedback Received to Date**



# eCQM Stakeholder Event

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## Key Topic Themes:

- Ensure alignment and demonstrate eCQM value to ease burden
- Improve eCQM development processes
  - Development and testing
- Improve eCQM reporting process
  - Implementation – data collection and workflow
  - Submission, attribution, and feedback mechanisms
- Clarify certification
- Focus on communications

# **eCQM Strategy Project: Audience Feedback – Gallery Walk**

# Gallery Walk

- **Goal:**

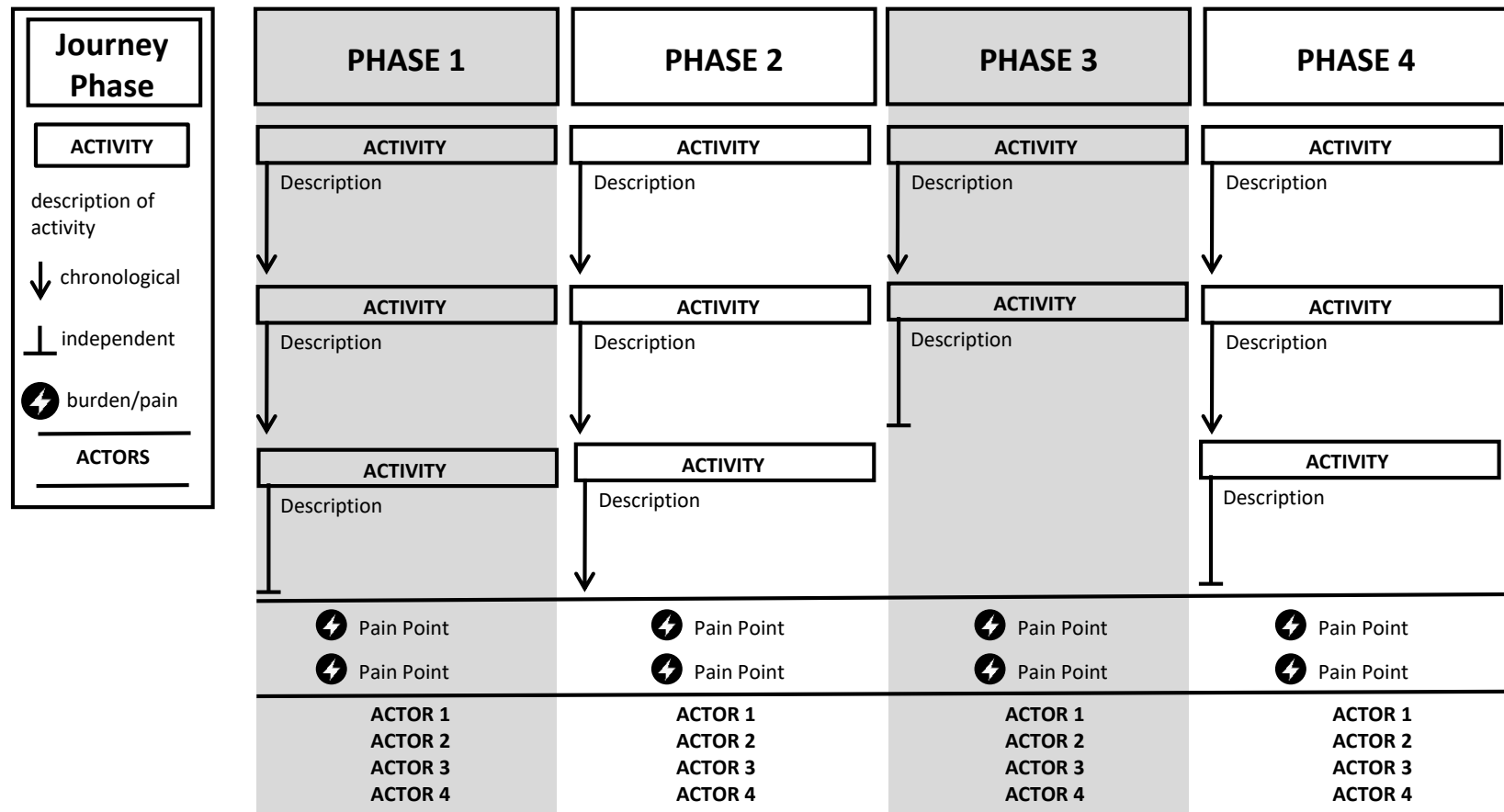
- Provide feedback on solutions to address stakeholder-identified eCQM pain points

- **Stations:**

Station #	Station Name
1	Measure Development
2	Certification and Pre-submission Data Validation Tools
3	Data Element Reporting
4	Hospital Quality Data Submission
5	Communications
6	Patient Attribution for eCQMs

# Journey Map

**Journey Map:** a tool to visualize the hospital eCQM processes and help identify gaps, moments of frustration/delight, etc., and thus lead to insights for improvement.



# Data Element Reporting

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- A new approach to eCQM development and reporting informed by site visits and listening sessions
- Concept still in development
- Focus on data requirements of eCQMs is to reduce provider and vendor burden

# Data Element Reporting: Background

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- eCQMs require capture of structured clinical data to enable accurate, repeatable calculation of quality measures
- Structured data capture has been cited as a source of provider burden
- Workflows vary widely by EHR, and also by configuration, which causes confusion for clinicians on how to capture some data elements
- Annual updates require analysis and redesign of workflows for capturing data based on measure logic changes

# Data Element Reporting: Principles

- **Move eCQM calculation out of EHR vendors/systems**
  - Standardize calculation engines available to vendors and providers
- **Required data should be:**
  - Available in current EHR systems
  - Clinically valuable
  - Widely used across programs
  - Simple and efficient to record
- **Align with existing data standardization efforts**
  - CMS Long Term Support Service (LTSS) Data Element Library
  - ONC Common Clinical Data Set (CCDS)
  - US Core Data Initiative (USCPI)
  - CMS Common Clinical Data Elements (CCDE) Pilot

# Follow up

To download a copy of this presentation, visit:

<https://health.mitre.org/himss18>



Data Interoperability to  
Reduce Clinician Burden

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# Thank You!

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# Gallery Walk

## ■ Instructions:

Please proceed to a station to provide feedback on one or more of the following solutions to reduce the burden of eCQMs.

## ■ Stations:

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1	Measure Development
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