

**TABLE C.2: Quality Measures Finalized for Removal from Merit-Based Incentive Payment System Program for the 2018 Performance Period and Future Years**

Note: In the CY 2018 Quality Payment Program proposed rule (82 FR 30463 through 30465), CMS proposed removal of measures based upon review of updates made to existing quality measure specifications, the proposed addition of new measures for inclusion in MIPS, and the feedback provided by specialty societies. Measure-specific removal rationales are provided in the table below (e.g., “this measure has been proposed for removal because of outdated measure specifications based on current clinical guidelines”).

NQF #	Quality #	CMS E-Measure ID	Data Submission Method	Measure Type	National Quality Strategy Domain	Measure Title and Description	Measure Steward	Rationale for Removal
N/A	032	N/A	Claims, Registry	Process	Effective Clinical Care	<p><b>Stroke and Stroke Rehabilitation: Discharged on Antithrombotic Therapy:</b>                      Percentage of patients aged 18 years and older with a diagnosis of ischemic stroke or transient ischemic attack (TIA) who were prescribed an antithrombotic therapy at discharge.</p> <p>We did not receive specific comments regarding the removal of this measure.</p> <p><b>FINAL ACTION:</b> We are finalizing our proposal to remove Q#032 for the 2018 Performance Period and future years.</p>	American Academy of Neurology	CMS proposed the removal of the measure “ <i>Stroke and Stroke Rehabilitation : Discharged on Antithrombotic Therapy</i> ” as a quality measure from the MIPS program, due to the measure steward no longer maintaining the measure since there are similar existing measures being maintained by other measure stewards. We requested comment on the removal of this measure from the Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) program.

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NQF #	Quality #	CMS E-Measure ID	Data Submission Method	Measure Type	National Quality Strategy Domain	Measure Title and Description	Measure Steward	Rationale for Removal
N/A	294	N/A	Registry	Process	Communication and Care Coordination	<p><b>Parkinson’s Disease: Parkinson’s Disease Medical and Surgical Treatment Options Reviewed:</b>                      All patients with a diagnosis of Parkinson’s disease (or caregiver(s), as appropriate) who had the Parkinson’s disease treatment options (e.g., non-pharmacological treatment, pharmacological treatment, or surgical treatment) reviewed at least once annually</p> <p>We did not receive specific comments regarding the removal of this measure.</p> <p><b>FINAL ACTION:</b> We are finalizing our proposal to remove Q#294 for the 2018 Performance Period and future years.</p>	American Academy of Neurology	CMS proposed the removal of the measure “ <i>Parkinson’s Disease: Parkinson’s Disease Medical and Surgical Treatment Options Reviewed</i> ” as a quality measure from the MIPS program, due to the measure steward no longer maintaining the measure. We requested comment on the removal of this measure from the Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) program.

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NQF #	Quality #	CMS E-Measure ID	Data Submission Method	Measure Type	National Quality Strategy Domain	Measure Title and Description	Measure Steward	Rationale for Removal
N/A	312	166v7	EHR	Process	Efficiency and Cost Reduction	<p><b>Use of Imaging Studies for Low Back Pain:</b>                      Percentage of patients 18-50 years of age with a diagnosis of low back pain who did not have an imaging study (plain X-ray, MRI, CT scan) within 28 days of the diagnosis</p> <p><b>Comment:</b> Two commenters opposed removal of this measure. One commenter opposed removal of this measure because it is part of the CQMC and encouraged CMS to not remove this measure from MIPS until the CQMC removes it from the core set. Another commenter expressed concern that removing this measure leaves the <i>Physical Medicine Specialty Measure Set</i> with fewer than six measures that can be reported via EHR. A commenter supports removing this from MIPS but objects to retaining it as a measure for CPC+.</p> <p><b>Response:</b> The age cut off modification remains unresolved for this measure. This measure is not owned by us and, therefore, cannot be modified without coordinating with the measure owner. We believe the issue with the age criteria outweighs concerns of CQMC misalignment and the reduction of available eQMCs within MIPS. We will continue to pursue the measure modification request again with the measure steward and, as necessary, make any proposals in future rulemaking. We note that comments on the CPC+ measure set are outside the scope of this final rule.</p> <p><b>FINAL ACTION:</b> While we understand the commenters concerns, the measure is not updated to reflect current clinical guidelines. Therefore, we are finalizing our proposal to remove Q312 for the 2018 Performance Period and future years.</p>	National Committee for Quality Assurance	<p>CMS proposed the removal of the measure “<i>Use of Imaging Studies for Low Back Pain</i>” as a quality measure from the MIPS program, due to the age cut off as stated in the current measure description. The American College of Radiology’s current guidelines suggest that imaging be performed in adults older than 50 years of age who present with lower back pain. CMS had provided the measure steward with the opportunity to update the age range, in order to retain the measure within the program however, no changes have been made to the measure description. We requested comment on the removal of this measure from the Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) program.</p>

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