

EARLY ADOPTER PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

DIGITAL CONTENT SERVICES: REQUIREMENTS AND RESOURCES FOR A SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION

Thank you for your interest in NCQA's Digital Content Services. NCQA's Digital Content Services Early Adopter program is designed for forward-thinking and innovative organizations who want to use digital quality measures to improve quality. To have a successful implementation, organizations that use NCQA's Digital Content services must be prepared and meet all technical and resource requirements. This document provides a high-level overview of the requirements you should be aware of to guide resource needs and decision-making. This list is not intended to be exhaustive; if you have any questions, please contact your NCQA Account Executive.

FHIR Data Requirements

NCQA's Digital Content Services uses ONLY FHIR data. To use this service, you must produce FHIR data. You are required to:

- Adhere to NCQA's HEDIS Core Implementation Guide that uses FHIR v4.0.1 as well as any updates to it for data compliance.
- Source FHIR data in Patient/Member bundles.
- Store data in cloud storage buckets. (See below for more information)

Cloud Resources

You must be able to provide the following cloud resources:

- DNS services to manage domains / subdomains.
- AWS S3, GCP Cloud Storage or Azure Blob Storage with no additional 3rd party encryption. Used for FHIR Bundles.
- Ability to restrict ingress traffic to container applications & database.
- Manage cloud-provided load balancers.

NCQA will provide installation scripts & documentation for the following Cloud resources in Amazon Web Services (AWS), Google Cloud Platform (GCP), or Microsoft Azure:

- AWS RDS with Postgres, Azure Postgres Services, GCP Cloud SQL for Postgres
- Docker application images. No other containerization services (Podman, etc.) are currently maintained.

- Container Orchestration:
 - AWS: Elastic Container Service
 - Azure: Container Apps
 - GCP: Cloud Run
- Ability to provision cloud resources with write-level permissions to the above-mentioned resources in order to install the product via Terraform scripts or internally via cloud console.
- IAM Role Access to NCQA cloud container registries and content providers

Identity Management

You must have the ability to integrate your organization's identity management through OpenID (not SAML) connect. There are two parts to fulfill this requirement. The organization must have logins through a provider, but also a client application with it as well:

- Cognito
- Azure Active Directory
- Google Authentication
- Okta

Customers will need to have both an OpenID app client provider (Google, Active Directory, etc) as well as user logins. Organizations that use Google login will need to confirm that they have created their own client app.

Security

The software will be deployed in the customer's cloud environment and the customer is responsible for the security of its own implementation. NCQA will not knowingly introduce bugs or vulnerabilities in its software. NCQA takes the following security precautions:

- Container Screening
- Manual Pen Testing
- Application Security Testing Tools
- Software Composition Analysis Tools
- Encryption in transit and at rest

Staff Resources

Successful installation and implementation of this software is dependent on dedicating the appropriate resources for installation and implementation. It is important that you can dedicate Dev Ops, Cloud Engineers, Project Managers or similar resources to conduct the deployment and maintenance necessary. Resource needs include, but are not limited to:

- Firewall setup
- Infrastructure setup/Segmentation
- Checking for notifications for updates/patches
- Assigning/auditing/monitoring application user access and activity
- Making and testing backups

Uses

The Early Adopter product has a defined set of measures and uses. It is important you are aware of primary uses and limitations of the early adopter software, including:

- The output of the software is patient/member-level JSON FHIR outputs. For effective use of this software, you must have the ability to use the patient/member-level JSON FHIR outputs per measure for business needs.
- The product supports Measurement Year 2023 specifications for the following measures:
 - BCS-E: Breast Cancer Screening
 - CCS-E: Cervical Cancer Screening
 - CIS-E: Childhood Immunization Status
 - COL-E: Colorectal Cancer Screening
 - AIS-E: Adult Immunization Status
 - IMA-E: Immunization for Adolescents
 - DSF-E: Depression Screening & Follow-Up
 - APM-E: Metabolic Monitoring for Children and Adults
 - DRR-E: Depression Remission or Response for Adolescents and Adults
 - DMS-E: Utilization of the PHQ-9 to Monitor Depression Symptoms for Adolescents and Adults
 - AAB: Avoidance of Antibiotic Treatment for Acute Bronchitis/Bronchiolitis
 - CWP: Appropriate Testing for Pharyngitis
 - UOP: Use of Opioids from Multiple Providers
 - URI: Appropriate Treatment for Upper Respiratory Infection
- In its early adopter phase, the product will not support quality (HEDIS) reporting and should be used for quality improvement and performance management solutions, or to get comfortable with and use the software in workflows for eventual reporting use with a future general release version.
- In its Early Adopter phase, the product does not replace Measure Certification or Audit because its capabilities may not be used to support quality reporting.