

# Demystifying dQMs: Your Top Questions Answered

Presented By:



**Courtney Breece**

VP, Product Management,  
Inovalon



**Ryan Pedersen**

Principal Technical Architect,  
Inovalon



# What is really changing?

Introduction to digital quality measures

# Digital Quality Measures (dQMs)

- **What Are dQMs?**

dQMs are measures built using Clinical Quality Language (CQL) as the data model and FHIR<sup>®</sup> as the member data source.

- **What is Changing?**

- Measure Technical Specifications are expressed using machine-readable measure logic in the Clinical Quality Language (CQL) standard.
- With dQMs, the focus moves away from just claims and medical record review to include clinical data coming from EHRs, registries, case management systems, and health information exchanges.
- The Timeline  
All traditional hybrid measures will be retired by 2030 and all HEDIS<sup>®</sup> measures will be converted to digital measures.

- **Industry Adoption**

Digital quality measures have not been widely adopted outside of NCQA HEDIS measures.

# Hybrid Measures for Digital Transition

## Measurement Year 2025

- *Eye Exams for Diabetics (EED)* – Will transition to be administrative only
- *Childhood Immunization Status (CIS)* – Will transition to ECDS
- *Immunization for Adolescents (IMA)* – Will transition to ECDS
- *Cervical Cancer Screening (CCS)* – Will transition to ECDS

## Measurement Year 2026

- *Lead Screening in Children (LSC)* – Will be administrative only

## Measurement Year 2027

- *Weight Assessment and Counseling for Nutrition and Physical Activity for Children and Adolescents (WCC)* – Will be administrative only

## Measurement Year 2028

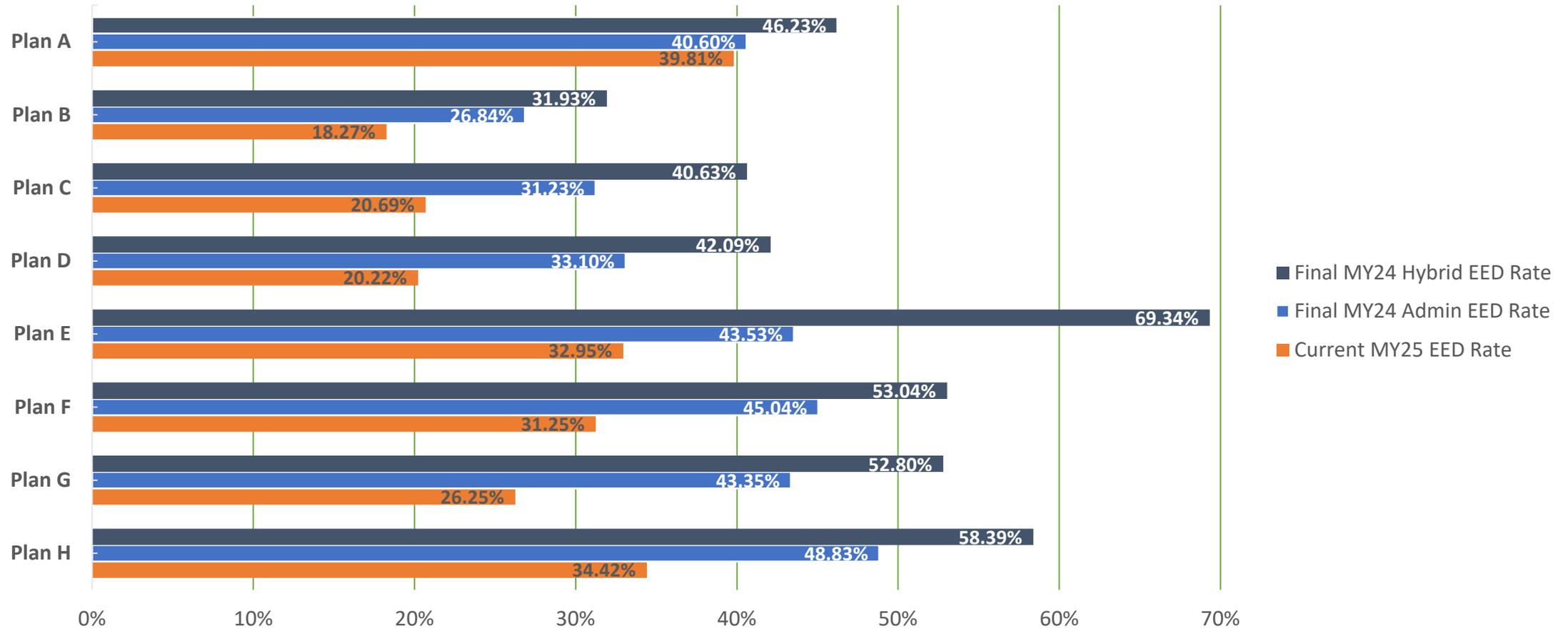
- *Prenatal and Postpartum Care (PPC)* – Will be administrative only
- *Controlling High Blood Pressure (CBP)* – Will transition to ECDS
- *Blood Pressure Control for Patients with Diabetes (BPD)* – Will transition to ECDS

## Measurement Year 2029

- *Glycemic Status Assessment for Patients with Diabetes (GSD)* – Will transition to ECDS
- *Transitions of Care (TRC)* – Will transition to ECDS
- *Care for Older Adults (COA)* – Will transition to ECDS

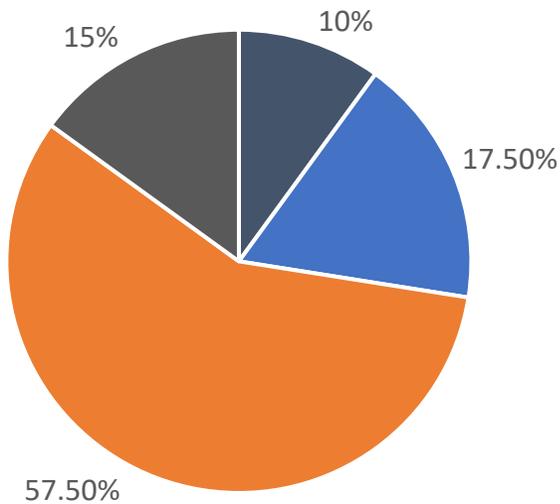
# How Do You Compare?

EED MY24 Hybrid Rates vs. MY EED Rate



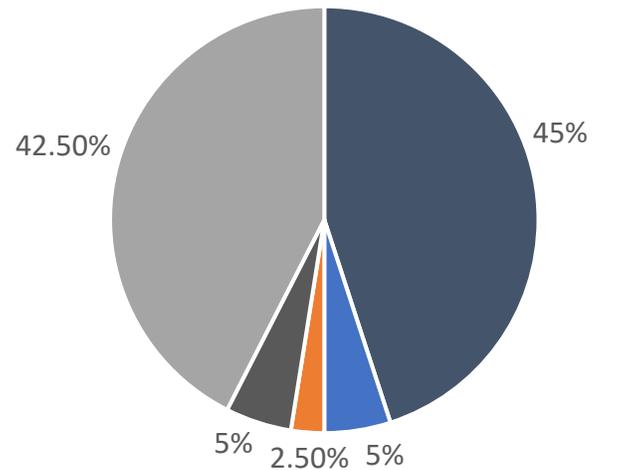
# Industry FHIR® Readiness Snapshot

How ready is your health plan to transition to digital quality measures?



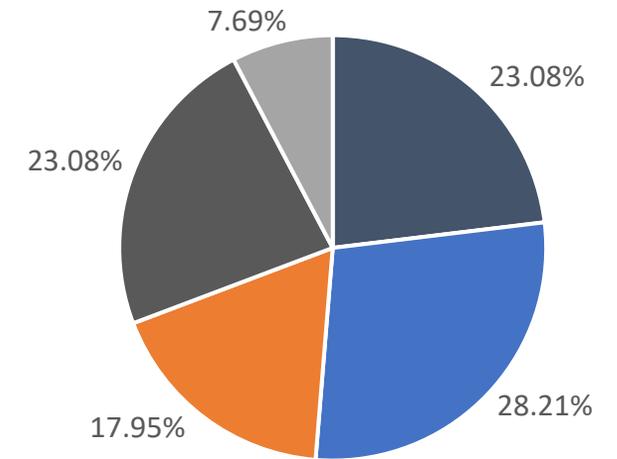
■ Not Ready at All ■ Not Very Ready  
■ Somewhat Ready ■ Very Ready

What percentage of your data are you currently receiving in FHIR®-compliant formats?



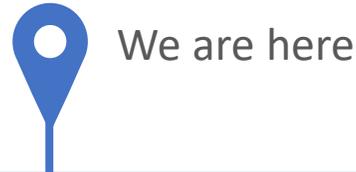
■ 25% or less ■ 50% ■ 75% ■ 100% ■ Unsure

What is the biggest challenge your health plan faces in preparing for the transition to digital quality measures?



■ Getting FHIR-compliant Clinical Data  
■ Internal Resource Limitations  
■ Technology/Vendor Readiness  
■ Clinical Data Quality  
■ Lack of Clear Guidance/Standards

# Major Phases for Digital Transition



	Phase 1 Digital Introduction MY2023	Phase 2 Digitally Enabled MY2024-MY2028	Phase 3 All Digital MY2029*	Phase 4 Digital Only MY2030**
dQM Availability	Some	All	All	All
Paper Specs (Vol. 2)	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Not Allowed
Measure Certification	Traditional	Traditional & Digital	Traditional & Digital	Digital Only
Hybrid Methodology	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

*\*Dependent on hybrid measure conversion and parallel testing.*

*\*\*Requires market maturity and ecosystem readiness.*

# What does a digital measure look like?

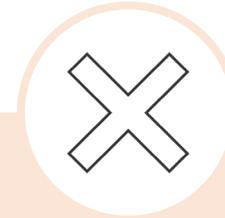
Live demonstration

# Demonstration Debrief



## Benefits

- No room for interpretation
- Quick implementation of measures
- Requires a single FHIR® data source



## Challenges

- Difficult implementation of CQL engine
- Data aggregation challenges – creating a FHIR® bundle across all sources
- One member at a time, difficult to do at scale
- Minimal results details returned from NCQA digital measure

# How are quality vendors adapting?

Inovalon's approach

# Inovalon's Converged Approach for **Digital Measurement Readiness**



## **Leverage FHIR® Data**

Inovalon supports the native ingestion of your FHIR® data into the Converged solution suite.

Keep your existing feeds as is to reduce disruption to your existing processes.



## **Calculate Digital Measures**

Inovalon will produce measurement rates against NCQA's digital measure packages beyond ECDS support.

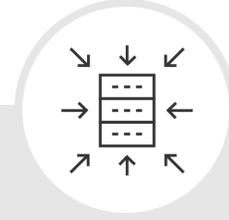
Support for scoring and reporting of traditional measures will continue.



## **Close the Hybrid Lift Gap**

Inovalon supports prospective MRR with abstraction forms and MRR-to-Admin event catalog.

*Coming in 2026:* New web-based MRR application with AI and NLP features to handle processing large volumes of medical records.



## **Fill Your Clinical Data Needs**

Source and retrieve EHR data for members not covered through other clinical data feeds with Inovalon's Electronic Record On Demand™.

# Inovalon's FHIR®/Digital Roadmap

## **FHIR® Platform Foundations**

Foundational FHIR® support through Inovalon's Converged Data Ingestion™ to enable the build of a unified FHIR® ingress (two adapters, one pipeline).

## **FHIR® Connector #1: HIE -> FHIR®**

Supports common HIE transports (e.g., FHIR® Rest/Batch, IHE HIE-style Document Reference pointers).

## **FHIR® Connector #2 CCD -> FHIR® conversion**

Supports parsing CCD XML mapped to FHIR® resources.

Composition + Bundle of Patient, Condition, Medication Statement/Medication Request, Allergy Intolerance, Immunization, Observation, Procedure, and Encounter.

## **Claims to FHIR® conversion**

Leverages claims to FHIR® conversion.

## **FHIR® bundle**

Creates a unified FHIR® bundle from all available data sources through ingestion – Supports true dQM (FHIR® only) measurement.

## **Orchestration of HEDIS dQM CQL on consolidated FHIR® bundle**

Inovalon optimization of HEDIS dQM CQL output

Inovalon Digital Certification and Traditional

# What can you do to prepare now?

Steps to get started

# What Can You Do to Prepare Now?

## 01

### Establish FHIR® Data Governance and Strategy

- Form a cross-functional FHIR® Transformation or Quality Data Committee
- Define ownership across Quality, IT, and Data Governance
- Align with enterprise digital health and interoperability goals

## 02

### Assess Current FHIR® Data Readiness

- Inventory existing HEDIS and clinical data sources
- Evaluate EHR connectivity and FHIR® data availability
- Align a budget for EHR, HIE, and data aggregation needs

## 03

### Determine Process of FHIR® Data Accuracy and Completeness

- P&P for who validates the new FHIR® sources
- Clinical review - frequency? PSV?
- Internal data completeness standards

## 04

### Engage EHR Vendors, Provider Networks, HIEs

- Coordinate with provider networks and HIEs for data exchange
- Align contracts to support FHIR®-based digital quality reporting
- Assess budget by vendor, site, and connection

# What Can You Do to Prepare Now?

## 05

### Pilot and Validate Early

- Start with existing data sources available in FHIR®
- Validate data accuracy, completeness, and measure logic
- Document lessons learned and refine workflows

## 06

### Strengthen Data Governance and Compliance

- Implement robust data quality and provenance tracking
- Ensure security, privacy, and audit compliance
- Establish ongoing monitoring and reporting processes

## 07

### Enable Change Management and Education

- Train Quality, IT, and Operations teams on FHIR® and dQMs
- Communicate the business value

# FHIR® In Action

## The Need:

Your health plan wants to use clinical data from a large provider group's EHR (e.g., Epic) to improve completeness for HEDIS/dQM measures such as **Controlling High Blood Pressure (CBP)**.

## Steps for Success:

Identify New Data Sources	Connect via FHIR® APIs	Transform and Ingest Data	Link to Member Records	Load New FHIR® Dataset in Existing Project	Validate and Report
<p><i>Quality Team</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provider group agrees to share patient data through their FHIR® API</li><li>• Data includes observations, encounters, and conditions</li></ul>	<p><i>IT/EHR Interoperability/Technical Team</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sets up a secure connection to pull FHIR® resources to plan</li><li>• Configures OAuth2 and SMART on FHIR® authentication for secure access</li></ul>	<p><i>IT/EHR Interoperability/Technical Team</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Maps FHIR® Observation resources into the plan's central data lake or FHIR® repository</li><li>• Standardizes timestamps, units (mmHg), and provenance</li></ul>	<p><i>IT/EHR Interoperability/Technical Team</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Matches FHIR® patient IDs to member IDs using master data management (MDM), or working with Inovalon to match to member table</li><li>• Ensures accurate attribution for quality measurement</li></ul>	<p><i>Quality Team</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assesses the impact of the new dataset for the measure, CBP, based on the ingested FHIR® data and existing file-based feeds</li><li>• Verifies members with appropriate BP readings in the measurement period receive compliance. Focus a select group of measures to show most impact.</li></ul>	<p><i>Quality Team</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Validates measure results against traditional HEDIS data</li><li>• One step closer to moving feeds and sources to FHIR®. Rinse and repeat.</li></ul>

# Parallel Testing



## Traditional Measurement

- HEDIS MY2029 Regulatory project
- File-based data (and some FHIR® resources)
- Traditional admin or ECDS reporting (one remaining hybrid measure)
- Keep existing HEDIS Roadmap and audit steps in place
- Use existing plan resources



## FHIR® Only Measurement

- HEDIS MY2029 Regulatory project (or earlier prospective testing)
- All FHIR® data (or file-based converted to FHIR® resources)
- FHIR® only version of measures
- Keep a separate version of the HEDIS Roadmap for just FHIR®-based process
- Will need to run in a separate test or production project
- Staff for additional testing

# Q&A



**Courtney Breece**

VP, Product,  
Inovalon



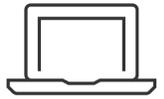
**Ryan Pedersen**

Principal Technical  
Architect  
Inovalon

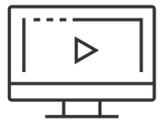
# Next Steps



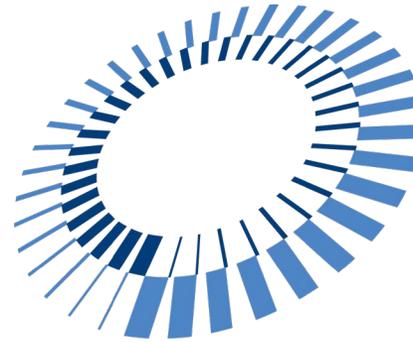
(855) 283-1416



[inovalon.com](http://inovalon.com)



[webinars@inovalon.com](mailto:webinars@inovalon.com)



**inovalon**<sup>®</sup>