

Reference #: 2025-16-PI
From: Inpatient and Outpatient Healthcare Quality Systems Development and Program
Sent: Support May 20, 2025
To: IQR, eCQM, and PI Recipient List
Subject: Now Available: 2026 CMS QRDA I Implementation Guide (IG), Schematron, and Sample Files for Hospital Quality Reporting (HQR)

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has published the [2026 CMS Quality Reporting Document Architecture \(QRDA\) Category I Implementation Guide \(IG\)](#), [Schematron](#), and [Sample Files](#) for Hospital Quality Reporting (HQR). The 2026 CMS QRDA I IG outlines requirements for hospitals to report electronic clinical quality measures (eCQMs) for the calendar year 2026 reporting period for the Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting (IQR) Program, the Medicare Promoting Interoperability Program, and the Outpatient Quality Reporting (OQR) Program.

The [2026 CMS QRDA I IG](#) contains these high-level changes compared with the 2025 CMS QRDA I IG, Version 1.1:

- Updated the QRDA Category I Report – CMS template to Version 9 with an updated templateId extension
- Updated the conformance statements to use the Federal Administrative Sex value set for patient sex
- Updated HQR validation rule CMS_0073 to validate with the updated QRDA Category I Report – CMS (V9) templateId extension
- Updated HQR validation rule CMS_0082 for CMS EHR Certification ID format starts with “2026C”.
- Updated eCQM information to align with the updated version for the 2026 reporting period

The [2026 CMS QRDA I Schematron File](#) contains these high-level changes:

- Updated to support the QRDA Category I Report – CMS (V9) template version updates
- Updated to support the changes to the conformance statements for using the Federal Administrative Sex value set

The [2026 CMS QRDA I Sample Files](#) updates include:

- Updated to submit patient sex using code from the Federal Administrative Sex value set
- Updated eCQM information to align with the updated versions for the 2026 reporting period

Additional QRDA-Related Resources:

- To find out more about QRDA and eCQMs, visit the [Electronic Clinical Quality Improvement \(eCQI\) Resource Center](#).
- For questions related to the QRDA IGs and/or Schematrons, visit the [ONC Project Tracking System \(Jira\) QRDA](#) project.
- See the [QRDA Known Issues Dashboard](#) for solutions under development for both QRDA I and III known technical issues. These known issues supplement the information in QRDA IGs and other supporting documents.