

# Specification Manual for National Hospital Quality Measures

## Release Notes 2.4a

February 1, 2008

### Guidelines for Using Release Notes

Release Notes 2.4a provide modifications to the *Specifications Manual for National Hospital Quality Measures*. The Release Notes are provided as a reference tool and are not intended to be used to program abstraction tools. Please refer to the *Specifications Manual for National Hospital Quality Measures* for the complete and current technical specifications and abstraction information.

The notes are organized to follow the order of the Table of Contents. Within each topic section, a row represents a change beginning with general changes followed by data elements in alphabetical order. The implementation date is 04-01-2008 unless otherwise specified. The column headings are described below:

- **Section** - used to identify which section(s) listed in the Table of Contents contain the change listed. The sections are Data Dictionary, Measure Information, Missing and Invalid Data, Sampling Methods, etc.
- **Impacts** - used to identify which portion(s) of the Manual Section is impacted by the change listed. Examples are Alphabetical Data Element List, Data Element Pages, (Topic) Data Element List, Measure Information Form (MIF) and Flowchart (Algorithm). The measures that the data element is collected for are identified.
- **Rationale** - provided for the change being made.
- **Description of Changes** - used to identify the section within the document where the change occurs, e.g., Definition, Data Collection Question, Allowable Value, and Denominator Data Elements.

**NOTE:** Additions are grey highlighted in the corresponding document.

- **Page**- the beginning page number is from the 2.4 version of the manual

Data elements that cross multiple measures and contain the same changes will be consolidated into one row. If those changes do not apply to all of the measures listed in the Impacts column that is identified in the description of changes.

This document should allow the reader to identify the exact location of each change by reading from left to right across the columns.

Section	Impacts	Rationale	Description of Changes	Page
<b>Appendices</b>				
Appendix C	Table 2.1 Antimicrobial Medications	All antibiotics listed in Table 3.11 should also be included in Table 2.1.	<b>Add</b> Apo-Nitrofurantoin and Novo-Furantoin to left column and Nitrofurantoin to the right column for each entry.	Appendix C-11