



An initiative of the Quality Alliance Steering Committee

A Nationally-Consistent Data Aggregation Methodology

Validation of Performance Measure Results

QASC MIS Workgroup Meeting

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Supported By:

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Project Goals

- ▶ Develop and apply robust, transparent and a nationally-consistent approach to aggregating healthcare information across multiple health plans to assess physician performance, drive QI, and improve patient outcomes
- ▶ Measure physician performance, applying measures and methods that are standard, conceptually valid, defensible, understandable, and accepted by key stakeholders and users of measurement results
- ▶ Align with data aggregation initiatives being undertaken by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
- ▶ Construct an infrastructure upon which aggregation and measurement can occur on an ongoing basis
- ▶ Use technologies to support efficient data collection and processing of information, while protecting patient confidentiality

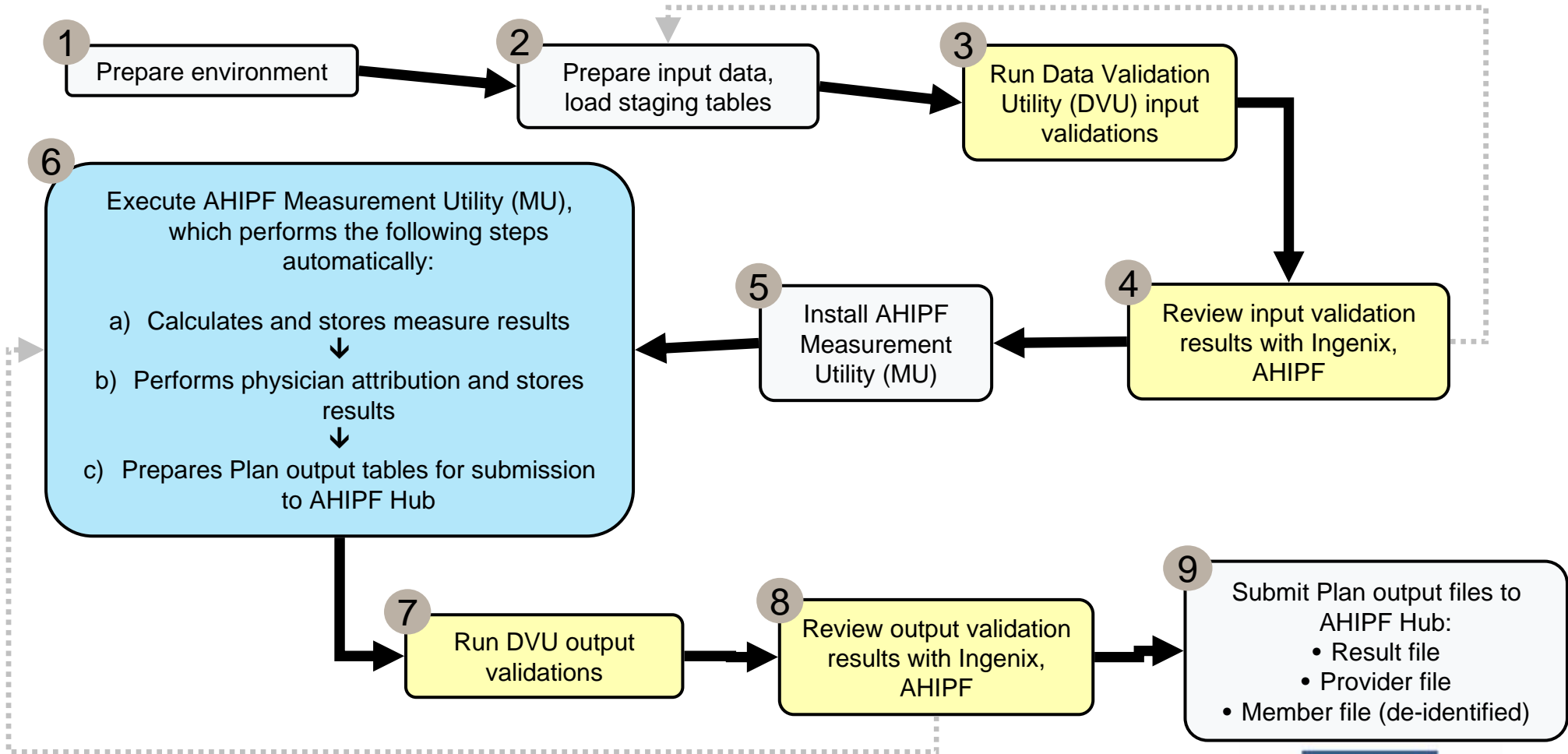


Validation of Performance Measure Results

- ▶ Objective: Ensure valid and reliable performance measure results from the project
- ▶ The scope of the validation effort primarily involves developing and executing a methodology that ensures:
 - Components of the technical solution accurately implement and function according to the project methodology
 - Project input and output data have been validated
- ▶ Main components of the Solution that require validation:
 - Plan Solution
 - AHIPF Hub solution
- ▶ Approach to validation performance measure results
 - Validation by Plan staff, AHIPF staff, and Ingenix
 - Independent validation by NCQA
 - NCQA was awarded the contract to validate the performance measure results
 - AHIPF used a competitive bid process to select vendor for validation efforts



Process Flow – Plan Solution Activities



No PHI will leave plans during the project



Validation of Plan Solution

- ▶ Validation of Plan Solution will be conducted by Plan Implementation teams, AHIPF project team, Ingenix, and NCQA
- ▶ Validation of Plan Input Data by Plan Staff using the Data Validation Utility (DVU) Software Tool provided to the plans for the project
 - Input data validation checks in the DVU determined by the Workgroup include:
 - Verifies the presence of all required fields
 - Checks all fields for illegal characters in all character type columns
 - Performs field-specific quality checks for invalid values
 - Performs distribution checks
 - Assess presence of invalid or inconsistent values
 - Relative number of rows with specific values for a field
 - Produces validation report that is reviewed by Plan, AHIPF, and Ingenix



Validation of Plan Solution (Cont'd)

- ▶ Independent Validation of AHIPF Measurement Utility (MU) by NCQA using the NCQA test deck approach
 - Purpose is to ensure that the AHIPF MU software tool is calculating the measures and performing the attribution per the HEDIS specifications and attribution methodology for the project
 - Plans will be using the AHIPF MU software that has been validated by NCQA to process their input data and generate the results files that will be submitted to AHIPF hub
 - Completed validation of AHIPF Measurement Utility by NCQA



Validation of Plan Solution (Cont'd)

- ▶ Validation of output files generated by the AHIPF MU will be performed by Plan staff, AHIPF, and Ingenix using the DVU prior to submission of files to AHIPF hub

- ▶ Full Population Validations
 - AHIPF MU generates metrics to support measure validation
 - Overall eligible population
 - Overall eligible population with pharmacy coverage
 - Patients in denominator for each measure
 - Patients in numerator for each measure
 - Measure Validation Checks
 - Measure prevalence as percentage of patients
 - Compared automatically by DVU to external benchmarks provided by Ingenix
 - Plans may also compare metrics to plan experience
 - Percentage of numerator patients
 - Compared automatically by DVU to external benchmarks provided by Ingenix
 - Plans may also compare metrics to other plan experience (i.e. Plan HEDIS rates)

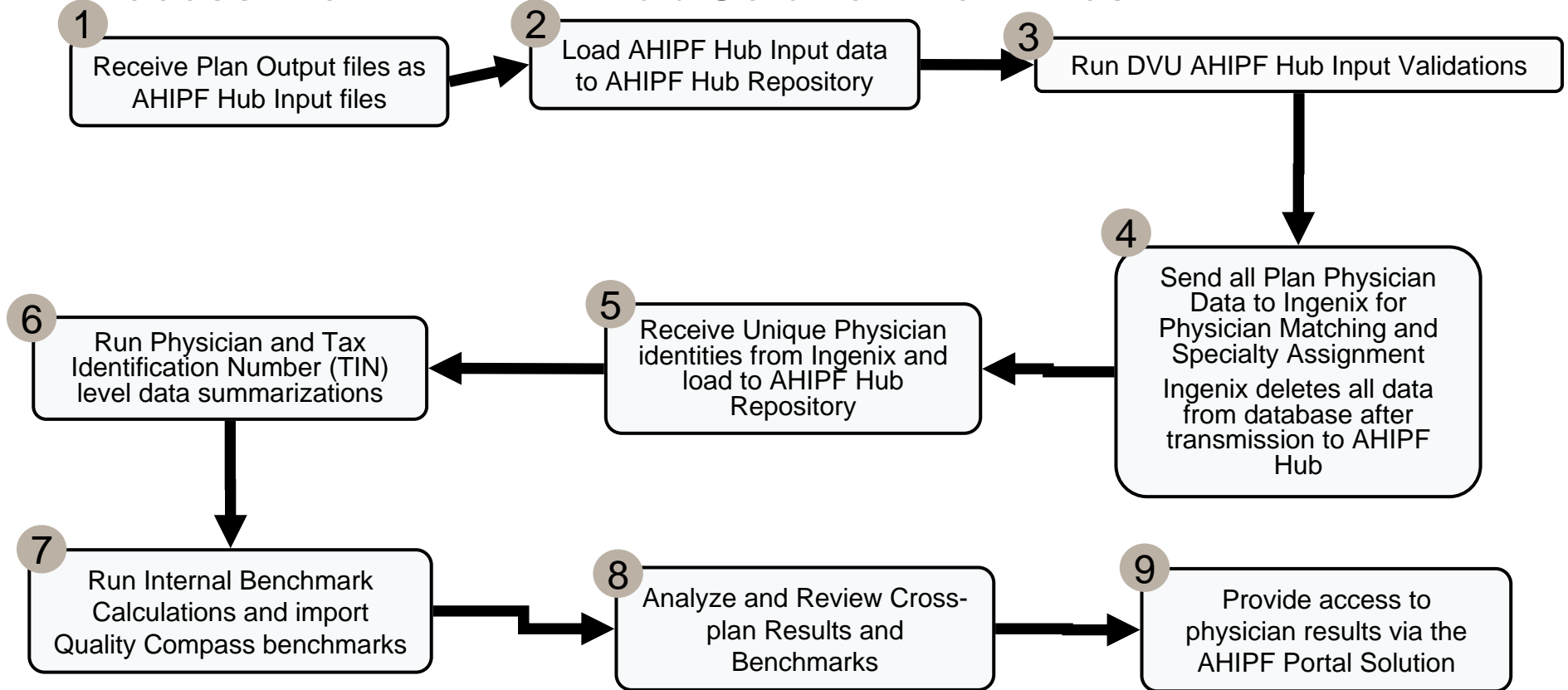


Validation of Plan Solution (Cont'd)

- ▶ Member, Provider, Results Output File Validations run by DVU
 - Ensure proper formatting of data
 - Create metrics to be used for transmission verification
 - Check for PHI



Process Flow – AHIPF Hub Solution Activities



Validation of AHIPF Hub Solution

- ▶ Validation of the AHIPF hub solution will be conducted by AHIPF Project team in addition to independent validation by NCQA
- ▶ Validation by AHIPF Project team
 - Run AHIPF hub DVU to ensure that data from plans was transmitted successfully
 - The AHIPF Hub Input Validations contain the same distribution checks as the Plan Output Validations (discussed on previous slides)
 - The distribution check results are compared by AHIPF project team to Plan Output Validations to ensure data was transmitted successfully



Independent Validation of AHIPF Hub Solution by NCQA

- ▶ NCQA's validation of AHIPF hub Solution will include the following areas:
 - Confirmation of data submission by plans.
 - Provider crosswalk and specialty assignment.
 - Aggregation of data across plans.
 - Aggregation of data with CMS
 - Calculation of benchmarks and assignment of peer groups including use of confidence intervals for measurement.
 - Use of adequate sample size for measure reporting
 - Display of provider performance measure results

- ▶ Finalized Analysis Plan for NCQA Validation of AHIPF Hub Processing

