### HCAHPS Composite 5: Communication About Medicines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NQF#: 0166</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Developer:</strong> Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Data Source:</strong> Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Hospital Compare</td>
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**Description:** The HCAHPS survey is a measure of patient experience in the hospital. The HCAHPS star ratings combine the results of multiple questions from the HCAHPS Survey. The Communication about Medicines measure reflects patients’ feedback on how often hospital staff explained the purpose of any new medicine and what side effects that medicine might have. Effective communication about medicine prevents misunderstandings that could lead to serious problems for a patient.

**Rationale:** The HCAHPS survey has led to insights such as hospitals that provide better patient experience of care have higher adherence rates to clinical guidelines, lower risk-adjusted mortality rates, and lower readmission rates. When used correctly, HCAHPS star ratings provide valid and reliable measures of hospital quality that can compel hospitals to assess and improve patient experience. For example, hospitals with better communication about medicine ratings have been shown to also have lower rates of mortality, sepsis, and pulmonary embolism or deep venous thrombosis.

**Evidence for Rationale:**

**Impact:**
- Large number of patients affected

**Opportunity:**
- Opportunity for improvement exists, as demonstrated by the coefficient of variation for the measure