

**3/29/2018 - Cooking with CQL: or How to Incorporate CQL into HQMF for eQCMs Qs&As**

**Measure Representation**

**Q. If there are differences regarding the computation of measures, can you walk through how the measure is computed and point out differences?**

**A.** We will add this as a topic for a future Cooking with CQL session.

**Q. When developing a new measure and I want to use an existing value set, how do I pull out specific codes, a subset of the existing value set, in a new value set? E.g. pulling one contraceptive from a list.**

**A.** If you need to reference only a subset of the codes from an existing value set, this can be done two ways; 1) define another value set with only that code in it or, 2) reference a specific code. In general, if the use case clearly identifies a specific code to reference, you can use it as a *direct reference code*. However, if there are multiple codes necessary, a new value set is needed.

Note that although CQL does provide set operations that could be used to compute the subset of a value set using some expressive criteria, performing calculations involving value sets is not recommended for several reasons:

- 1) Terminology operations, such as membership, are communicated in the machine-readable file in specific ways that enable implementations to make use of terminology servers. Performing calculations on value sets requires the use of *expansion*, which is not required for membership testing when that testing is done by the terminology server. As a result, using value sets in calculation would impose an additional implementation burden on vendors consuming the measure.
- 2) The definition of terminology is by design a separate aspect of quality measure development. This separation of concerns has multiple benefits, including that the maintenance and governance of value sets can be performed independent of the maintenance and governance of the measures.
- 3) Value set definition often involves operations that are specific to the terminologies involved, so there is a great deal of variability in the way that these expressions are represented.

**Terminology**

**Q. How do you create a new value set in Value Set Authority Center (VSAC)?**

**A.** You must be registered in [VSAC](#) as an author in order to create a new value set. Go to the Author Registration Section when logged in and search for the concepts you want in the terminology. Then identify and create a value set. Once the value set is defined in VSAC, you can use Retrieve by OID to access it in the MAT.