Environmental Scan Support Tool | The Environmental Scan Support Tool (ESST) makes information gathering for existing measures more efficient and effective by reducing the effort and time required to conduct an environmental scan.

Use Case: ESST for Measure Respecification

Intended Audience

This handout is intended for developers that change an existing measure for use in a new setting or population or with a new data source.

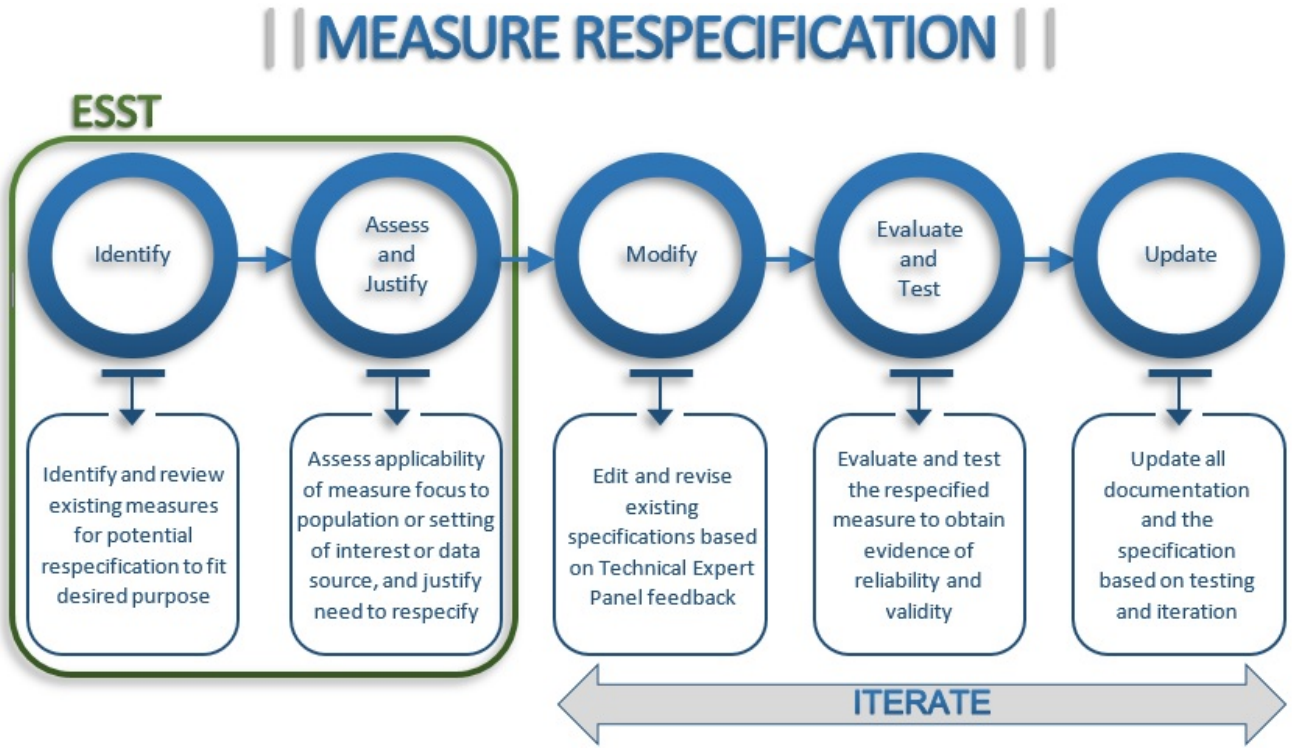
What is ESST?

Environmental Scan Support Tool (ESST) is an information gathering tool that uses artificial intelligence to find and identify the most relevant abstracts and articles that represent measure concepts: measure focus, target population and evidence. ESST is a convenient and current index of the most relevant literature in PubMed, PubMed Central and CINAHL for quality measures found in the CMS Measures Inventory. ESST is freely available as part of the CMS Measures Inventory Tool (CMIT) at https://cmit.cms.gov.

How is ESST used?

ESST helps users:

- Identify current and relevant biomedical literature to ensure up-to-date evidentiary support
- Compare current literature with literature cited in a preceding environmental scan
- Identify gap areas in need of further support to justify respecification



ESST for Measure Respecification

Example

> *The current contract requires mental health screening measures for adolescents; however, none exist for this population. A measure for screening adult patients for depression is identified during a review of existing measures. The steward of the adult depression screening measure could expand the population in the measure to include adolescents, if the evidence base supports that expansion and the measure is tested for reliability and validity within the new population.*

In this example, a related measure is identified with a measure focus appropriate to the setting of interest, but the measure is specified for a different population. The existing measure can be respecified by expanding the target population. With a respecified measure the intent is the same. However, information gathering will need to provide **justification for the respecification**, such as the incidence in the new population. ESST can help measure developers with respecification by identifying where to focus information gathering resources.

Identify and Review Existing Measures

ESST is **updated monthly** with the most recent biomedical literature relevant to quality measures in CMIT. While reviewing candidate measures for respecification, ESST is an **efficient** way to identify literature published since a measure was developed or updated. A new scan may contain **evidentiary support** that was not available when the preceding scan was completed. Finding up-to-date support relevant to a measure can help **narrow down the number of candidate measures** that may be suitable for respecification.

Assess Applicability and Justify Respecification

ESST is a starting point for information gathering while assessing the applicability of the measure focus and justifying the need for respecification. ESST provides a current environmental scan that a user can **compare** with the preceding scan (evidence cited in the Measure Information Form) to **identify gaps**—areas that need further support to justify respecification, such as evidence that supports expanding the target population. This enables the developer to **narrow the focus of additional information gathering** to themes in need of evidence.

Questions? Email us at
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