

## Transcript – What is a Value Set

*Audio descriptors are included in the in-line text.*

[upbeat music plays]  
0:03

What is a value set?

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Value sets are critical part of ECQM specifications, because they define the data elements used in the measure. Here's what I mean, At the bottom of any human readable, is a section that references all the data elements used in the measure in a list, along with its corresponding value set displayed immediately to the right of those references. For example, from the first item listed under the Data Criteria (QDM Data Elements) header, this measure is looking for a device applied, and we use the value set of graduated compression stockings to define what type of device to look for within the EHR. As this expanded code list for the Statin Value Set describes by listing the codes and their associated descriptors, value sets are comprised of codes that represent a clinical concept. And these codes are drawn from standard vocabularies or code systems listed to the right of the screen on this example, such as RX Norm, SNOMED CT, or LOINC, or ICD 10.

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Ultimately, these are the eligible codes the logic looks for within the EHR.

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Each value set has a unique identifier that is provided after each value set listed under the Terminology section of the human readable called the Object Identifier, or "OID" for short.

OIDs are used to easily search for a value set within the Value Set Authority Center, the VSAC. In the VSAC, refine your search by pasting the OID in the text box and click the orange search button. It's a source of truth and the central repository to house all eCQM value sets. Why go to the VSAC at all?

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Well, if you want to find out if a code is included or excluded in a value set, or for more clarification about what the value set is trying to capture, for instance, in this example click the Description button located on the left side of the screen. Below the Purpose header, you can find the clinical focus, inclusion criteria, data element scope, and exclusion criteria. Then, this is the place to go.

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The VSAC is accessible through the eCQI Resource Center webpage. Hover over Resources at the top of the page and click the eCQI Tools and Resources link.

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Click on VSAC, and there you go.

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If you're a first-time user, you'll need a license. But don't worry, it's free. After selecting Sign-In at the top of the VSAC webpage, click on "Request One Now" on the VSAC Login popup.

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Just follow the prompts on the UMLS License Request Form and you're on your way. To learn more on how to navigate the VSAC, click on the Help button at the top of the VSAC page to visit the VSAC support Center.

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Happy hunting!