

TRANSLATION SOFTWARE, TIMELINES, AND VENDOR SELECTION



HOW TRANSLATION SOFTWARE WORKS

Most CMS quality measures rely solely on data already available in your EMR. What's different here is that meeting the new CT reporting requirements requires analyzing the actual CT images themselves. Translation software extracts DICOM image data, combines it with information from your EMR, performs the necessary calculations and transfers the results into your EMR. This fusion of image analysis and clinical data is what CMS refers to as translation software. To meet the new CMS eCQM requirements you must report : CT Category (CMS defined protocol group), Global Noise Level (quantified image value), and Size-Adjusted Radiation Dose (patient normalized dose metric.).

You Choice of Vendor

Despite early confusion, CMS does not endorse or require any specific vendor or platform. There is no certification program. As long as the calculations follow the CMS specifications, any compliant software - commercial or homegrown – can be used. That said, the specification is complex and some details are vague. That's why most organizations will benefit from a partner with direct experience in radiation dose, imaging analytics, and CMS

eCQM Requirement Timeline

IQR & MIPs 2025-27	Self-Selectable
OQR 2025-27	Voluntary
OQR 2027	Mandatory

Plan for an 18 Month Implementation Window to Accomodate

- Budget approval
- Legal and cybersecurity reviews
- Installation and EMR integration
- Data validation and internal testing

Why Start Early?

Because you don't want to be reporting data you haven't seen. Once reporting begins, you are accountable for the results. Early access gives you time to review your data, identify outliers, refine protocols, and ultimately avoid performance penalties.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN A VENDOR

Immediate Visibility into Your Data

Don't wait until reporting is required. Early visibility helps you identify and correct issues before they affect your scores. That means identifying problems early—so you can fix them.

Clarity Behind the Numbers

It's not enough to simply receive three values. You also need to know how they were derived - which series, scan, and acquisition steps they came from? Without this, there's no way to improve performance—or defend what was submitted.

Seamless Integration with Your Environment

The right software connects with your existing scanners, PACS, and EMR—without starting from scratch. This reduces implementation time and minimizes operational disruption. That alone can save many months.