



## Meeting of the Board of Directors

### OPEN SESSION

November 2, 2017

The Board of Directors of the National Quality Forum (NQF) met on November 2, 2017, at NQF's offices.

#### Participants

**Board Members Attending:** Bruce Siegel (Chair); Shantanu Agrawal (President & CEO); Peter Briss (CDC Designee); James Chase (Vice Chair); William Conway; Carol Cronin; Leonardo Cuello; Helen Darling; Elizabeth Fowler; Kate Goodrich (CMS Designee); William Kramer; Deborah Parham Hopson (HRSA Designee); Jonathan Perlin; Laurel Pickering; Louise Probst; Jack Resneck (via conference call); Lewis Sandy; David Shahian; Nancy Wilson (AHRQ Designee)

**Board Members Not Attending:** Lawrence Becker (Treasurer); Kirsten Sloan

**NQF Staff:** John Bernot; Marc Charon; Apryl Clark; Neal Comstock; Kathleen Giblin; Patricia Green; Ann Hammersmith; Jason Johnson; Elisa Munthali; Cherish Simpson

#### OPEN SESSION

The Board convened in open session at 8:18 a.m., ET.

#### Welcome and Approval of Minutes

**ACTION:** The Board approved the open session minutes from the July 20, 2017, Board of Directors meeting.

#### Health Equity Program

John Bernot, Senior Director, Quality Measurement, presented on the Health Equity Program. The Program was first introduced on a Board of Directors call on October 4, 2017. Dr. Bernot stated that the Program employs a comprehensive, multi-year, action-oriented approach. There are four components to the Program: 1) identifying disparities and at-risk populations; 2) influencing performance measurement; 3) inspiring implementation of best practices; and 4) informing payment. All four of these components are critical to achieve success in reducing disparities and inequities in healthcare.

A press release on the Health Equity Program was released on October 5, 2017 and the following week an All-Member call took place. There has been a tremendous outpouring of interest.

### **Social Risk Initiative 2.0**

Elisa Munthali, Acting Senior Vice President, Quality Measurement, updated the Board on the Social Risk Initiative 2.0. NQF self-funded a two-year trial to examine certain healthcare performance measures for social risk factors, such as a person's level of education.

During the trial, NQF considered risk adjustment for 303 measures. Of the measures reviewed, 93 measures included clinical or some other form of risk adjustment. Of these, 65 measures had a conceptual basis for social risk adjustment, and 17 measures were NQF-endorsed with social risk adjustment.

In July 2017, the NQF Board of Directors approved a new three-year initiative, allowing NQF to continue to include social risk factors in outcome measures submitted for endorsement. Through the 2.0 Initiative, NQF Standing Committees will continue to consider if a measure includes the appropriate social and clinical factors in its risk model. Staff will highlight risk adjustment in the preliminary analysis of each measure. Additionally, NQF's Scientific Methods Panel will review outcome measures and provide guidance on the appropriateness of the risk adjustment methods.

### **Consensus Development Process (CDP) Changes**

Elisa Munthali, Acting Senior Vice President, Quality Measurement, updated the Board on current CDP changes. The CDP recently underwent a redesign to be responsive to concerns about agility and efficiency. The changes touch every aspect of the CDP from measure submission opportunities, to review opportunities, and lastly training and education.

There will now be two measure submission opportunities for every topic area in November and April. A maximum of 12 measures will be evaluated by each standing committee in each cycle. Measure review topical areas have been consolidated from 22 to 15.

Measure stewards/developers are now required to notify NQF at least three months prior to the measure submission deadline. This will help both NQF and developers to better allocate resources.

NQF also recently created the Scientific Methods Panel. The Panel will conduct an evaluation of complex measures for the criterion of Scientific Acceptability, with a focus on reliability and validity analyses and results. The Panel will also serve in an advisory capacity to NQF on methodologic issues, including those related to measure testing, risk adjustment, and measurement approaches.

### **Strategic Initiatives: Prioritization and Feedback**

John Bernot, Senior Director, Quality Measurement, provided an update on the measure prioritization and feedback initiatives. The prioritization initiative can still be categorized as a pilot and progress is being made.

NQF has launched a feedback initiative to gather substantive information on the implementation and use of measures. Measure users can provide information on the use of endorsed measures, including potential benefits and unintended consequences, as well as a better understanding of measure burden.

**Public Comments**

There were no public comments or questions.

The Board considered no other business and open session adjourned at 10:15 a.m., ET.