

# THE NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM

## CALL FOR MEASURES CHILD HEALTH QUALITY MEASURES 2010

### BACKGROUND

Child health quality is an important, though underemphasized area of measure development and endorsement. To date, NQF has endorsed more than 70 pediatric and perinatal measures. The set of NQF endorsed measures has steadily risen over the last several years, with emphasis in the areas of perinatal and neonatal care, chronic illness care, and care for hospitalized children.

In November 2009, NQF convened a Child Health Outcomes Steering Committee to identify, evaluate and endorse additional measures suitable for public reporting and quality improvement that specifically address outcomes of child health. This project included both cross-cutting and condition-specific outcome measures. The Child Health Outcomes Project also identified gaps in existing outcome measures.

### CALL FOR MEASURES

In this Call, NQF is targeting measures that could be used in public reporting at the population level (e.g., State) and for the following conditions or cross-cutting areas applicable to the Medicaid population.

- Respiratory issues such as asthma
- Overweight/obese
- Well child care
- Prevention and screening (e.g., immunizations, developmental delay),
- Diabetes
- Prenatal/perinatal care
- Access to care (e.g., well-child care visits, access to primary care practitioners, emergency room utilization)
- Oral health (e.g., access to services, dental caries)
- Inpatient safety (e.g., pediatric catheter associated blood stream infection rates)
- Mental health (e.g. depression, behavior problems, anxiety, ADHD)
- Patient experience with care

Measure developers are asked to specify how “e-ready” their measures are, and to the extent possible, NQF will work with measure developers to submit measures that include electronic specification for electronic health records (EHR) that would align

with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act's Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act (ARRA- HITECH) requirements.

### Conditions for Consideration of Measures

Any organization or individual may submit measures for consideration. To be included as part of the initial evaluation, candidate consensus standards must meet the following general criteria as specified in the [measure evaluation criteria](#):

- A. The measure is in the public domain or an [intellectual property agreement](#) is signed. Please note that no material will be accepted without fully executing the Measure Steward Agreement. All materials not meeting this requirement will be returned to the sender.
- B. The measure owner/steward verifies there is an identified responsible entity and process to maintain and update the measure on a schedule that is commensurate with the rate of clinical innovation, but at least every 3 years.
- C. The intended use of the measure includes both public reporting and quality improvement.
- D. The requested measure submission information is complete. Generally, measures should be fully developed and tested\* so that all the evaluation criteria have been addressed and information needed to evaluate the measure is provided.

\***Untested measures (i.e., without testing and results for [Scientific Acceptability of Measure Properties](#))** are only eligible for time-limited endorsement. The NQF [Time-limited Endorsement Policy](#) was modified in 2009 as follows:

- Limited Use. Time-limited endorsement is only available for use if all of the following conditions are met:
  - An incumbent measure does not address the specific topic of interest in the proposed measure;
  - A critical timeline must be met (e.g., legislative mandate); and
  - The measure is not complex (e.g., composite, requires risk adjustment).
- Time Period. The measure steward verifies a timeline and committed resources to conduct testing within 12 months if granted time-limited endorsement.

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION:** All measures **MUST** be submitted by **6:00pm EST on August 30, 2010**.

**QUESTIONS:** If you have any questions, please contact Suzanne Theberge, MPH at 202.783.1300 or via email at [childhealth@qualityforum.org](mailto:childhealth@qualityforum.org).