



MAP Rural Health: Technical Expert Panel

BACKGROUND

Residents of rural areas—more than 59 million Americans or approximately 19 percent of the U.S. population—may be more disadvantaged overall than those in urban or suburban areas, particularly with respect to educational attainment, income level, or other sociodemographic factors, health status and behaviors, and access to the healthcare delivery system.

Healthcare providers in rural areas, in turn, face many challenges in reporting quality measurement data and implementing care improvement efforts to address the needs of their populations. Often, rural providers serve a relatively low number of patients in their catchment areas overall or a low number of patients who have certain conditions or receive certain types of services. This can affect the reliability, validity, and utility of performance metrics that might otherwise be available to them for measuring their performance in providing care.

NQF will convene a Technical Expert Panel (TEP) of up to three nationally known experts in statistics or measure methodology to develop recommendations on how to address the challenge of calculating healthcare measures when case volume is low. These recommendations will take into consideration reporting requirements for rural providers in various CMS quality programs, as well as the heterogeneity of both the residents and healthcare providers and services in rural areas. NQF will compile the panel's recommendations into a technical report that will be released for public comment prior to finalizing.

COMMITTEE CHARGE

NQF will convene a Technical Expert Panel (TEP) to discuss the low case-volume challenge and issue a set of recommendations that will include approaches that are actionable for measure developers who need guidance on enhancing the reliability and validity of performance measures for rural providers. Specifically, the TEP will:

- Develop recommendations on approaches for calculating healthcare performance measures when case-volume is low.
- Assist NQF in drafting a report that describes the TEP's discussion and recommendations.

TECHNICAL EXPERT PANEL STRUCTURE

Up to three individuals will be selected for the TEP for a six-month term. They will meet via conference call three times to discuss the project charge and develop a series of recommendations. The TEP will convene again via conference call after the public comment period to discuss the comments received on the draft recommendations.

Participation on the TEP requires a significant time commitment. To apply, prospective TEP members should be available to participate in all currently scheduled calls.

Panel participation includes:

- Up to four two- or three-hour conference calls
- Review of meeting materials prior to conference calls
- Assistance in drafting and reviewing the report summarizing the TEP’s recommendations in December 2018 and in early March 2019

Scheduled Conference Call Dates

Due to the small size of this TEP, final conference call dates will be selected based on the availability of the seated members. Up to four two- or three-hour conference calls will be scheduled between 12 pm and 6 pm ET on the dates listed below. To be considered, potential panel members must be available for at least two of the dates in the indicated ranges for each conference call below. As part of your nominations materials, please note any dates within these ranges for which you are NOT available for conference calls.

Meeting	Date
Conference Call #1	October 29-31, 2018
Conference Call #2	November 13-15, 2018
Conference Call #3	November 29-December 2, 2018
Conference Call #4	February 25-28, 2019

PREFERRED EXPERTISE AND COMPOSITION

Up to three experts in statistics, measure methodology, or related disciplines will be selected. These individuals should have experience and expertise in Bayesian statistics, small area estimation, nonparametric statistics, or other methodological areas that can inform the question of performance measurement when sample sizes are small, as well as an understanding of performance measure development and the challenges rural providers face with regard to quality reporting.

Please review the NQF conflict of interest policy to learn about how NQF identifies potential conflicts of interest. All potential TEP members must disclose any current and past activities prior to and during the nomination process in order to be considered.

CONSIDERATION AND SUBSTITUTION

Priority will be given to nominations from NQF members when nominee expertise is comparable. Please note that nominations are for an individual, not an organization, so “substitutions” of other individuals are not permitted. TEP members are encouraged to engage colleagues and solicit input from colleagues throughout the process.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Nominations are sought for individual technical experts. Self-nominations are welcome. Third-party nominations must indicate that the individual has been contacted and is willing to serve.

To nominate an individual to the Rural Health TEP, please **submit** the following information:

- a completed [online nomination form](#), including:
 - a brief statement of interest that includes your availability for the conference call dates listed above
 - a brief description of nominee expertise highlighting experience relevant to the Panel
 - a short biography (maximum 100 words), highlighting experience/knowledge relevant to the expertise described above
 - curriculum vitae or list of relevant experience (e.g., publications) *up to 20 pages*
- A completed disclosure of interest form. NQF staff will request this upon your submission of the nomination form.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION

All nominations *MUST* be submitted by **6:00 pm ET on September 24, 2018**.

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions, please contact Suzanne Theberge or Kirsten Reed at 202-783-1300 or maprural@qualityforum.org. Thank you for your interest.