Patient Outcomes: All-Cause Readmissions Expedited Review

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Chair, Consensus Standards Approval Committee
Webinar Goals

Provides opportunity for clarification prior to voting:

- Project scope
- Measures Recommended for Endorsement
- Overarching Issues
- Comments received/Actions Taken
Project Scope

- **Goals of this project**
  1. Identification and endorsement of additional cross-cutting, non condition-specific measures for accountability and quality improvement that address all-cause readmissions to hospitals
  2. All-cause hospital readmissions-related consensus standards that were endorsed by NQF before June 2009 will be evaluated under the maintenance process

- **Expedited Review Process**
  Three criteria must be met prior to consideration by the Consensus Standards Advisory Committee (CSAC) for an expedited review:
  1. The extent to which the measures under consideration have been sufficiently tested and/or in widespread use
  2. The scope of the project/measure set is relatively narrow
  3. There is a time-sensitive legislative/regulatory mandate for measures

- **The submitted measures were evaluated according to NQF evaluation criteria**
Project Status

- All comments were addressed by the Steering Committee and developers had an opportunity to respond to comments on their measures
- Member and public comment period closed on January 20.
- Voting opened Friday, February 17, 2012 with two measures recommended for endorsement
- Draft report and comment table available on the project page
Recommended two measures for endorsement:

- **1789: Hospital-wide all-cause unplanned readmissions measure (HWR) (CMS/Yale)**
  (Yes—14, No—5)

- **1768: Plan all-cause readmissions (NCQA)**
  (Yes—13, No—6)
Overarching Issues

- **Modeling approaches**
  - Statistical modeling and use of HLM
  - Selection of Covariates
  - Hospital volume—shrinkage issues
  - Adjusting for socioeconomic status

- **Usability for quality improvement**
Overarching Issues

- Related and competing measures
  - Hierarchical condition category vs. condition categories
  - Logistic or hierarchical modeling
  - Inclusion of structured cohorts
  - Exclusion of planned readmissions
  - Exclusion of cancer patients with planned readmissions
  - Inclusion of patients with psychiatric conditions
  - Counting readmissions as index admissions
117 comments received from 43 organizations/individuals

Major Themes:
- Justification of an expedited review
- Socioeconomic (SES) variables in the risk-adjustment model
- Usability concerns
- Support for harmonization
- Inclusion/exclusion criteria

Comment responses from NQF staff, measure developers & Steering Committee
Clarifications to the draft report

The Committee members:

- encouraged measure developers to consider testing community-level SES variables (instead of patient level) that can be used in risk adjustment models that are reliable and valid
- encouraged CMS and other potential users to continue enhancing data platforms, timeliness of reporting and other aspects of measure implementation
- expressed a strong desire that the NCQA and CMS/Yale measures should be harmonized for both hospital and plan level measurement within a reasonable timeframe
Impact of Comments

- Due to the number of comments surrounding the issues of SES and usability, the Committee agreed to re-vote on whether Measures #1789 (CMS/Yale) and #1768 (NCQA) met the NQF criteria for endorsement.

- Following the re-vote, both Measures #1789 and #1768 were recommended by the Committee for NQF endorsement.

- Measure #1789 was recommended with the following recommendations:
  - *In order to support fair and appropriate comparisons, hospital performance on this measure should be reported within like comparison groups (e.g., disproportionate share hospitals); and*
  - *In order to support performance improvement and accountability, feedback to hospitals should be timely and provide information on all readmissions*
Impact of Comments

- 0329: Risk-adjusted 30-day all-cause readmission rate (UnitedHealthCare)
  - After the January 31st call, the Committee voted not to rediscuss Measure #0329 (Yes—7, No—12)
  - The Committee’s recommendation to not recommend will remain
Next Steps

- NQF Member voting will end on Monday, March 1, 2012 at 6pm ET
- Voting results will be forwarded to CSAC for discussion at the March 7, 2012 in-person meeting
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Questions?