

## CALL FOR PROPOSED NEW EVENTS OR MODIFICATIONS TO ENDORSED EVENTS SERIOUS REPORTABLE EVENTS IN HEALTHCARE

**Background:** In 2002, the National Quality Forum (NQF) published a report, *Serious Reportable Events (SREs) in Healthcare*, which identified 27 adverse events that are serious, largely preventable, and of concern to both the public and healthcare providers. The objective of the project was to establish consensus among consumers, providers, purchasers, researchers, and other healthcare stakeholders about preventable adverse events that should never occur and to define them in a way that, should they occur, would make it clear what had to be reported. This report was updated in 2006, [Serious Reportable Events in Healthcare 2006](#), with one additional event being added. The 2006 Update also summarized the progress that had been made implementing the list and provided guidance to those engaged in implementing such reporting systems.

This SRE list is being updated with revisions and additions to the 2006 listing. All potential revisions and additions will be processed through the NQF Consensus Development Process (CDP). A summary report reflecting all updates and additions is expected to be published in early 2011.

As part of the updating process, a revision to the definition of a SRE has been made. The proposed revision was developed by the Steering Committee. The proposed definition was put out for Member and public comment and the SRE definition was further refined by the Steering Committee based on the comments received. The proposed definition provides a broader corridor for events along the continuum of preventability. The proposed definition of SRE, as well as the terms used therein, follows.

**SRE Definition:** SREs are defined as preventable, serious, and unambiguous adverse events. Some types of SREs are universally preventable and should never occur. Other types of SREs are largely preventable and, over time, may be reduced to zero as knowledge and safe practices evolve. Both types of SREs should be publicly reported.

Unambiguous	refers to an event that is clearly defined and easily identified
Preventable	describes an event that could have been anticipated and prepared for, but that occurs because of an error or other system failure
Serious	describes an event that can result in death or loss of a body part, disability, or loss of bodily function
And any of the following	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adverse (describes a negative consequence of care that results in unintended injury or illness)</li> <li>• Indicative of a problem in a healthcare facility's safety systems</li> <li>• Important for public credibility or public accountability</li> </ul>

NQF is seeking to expand the concept and use of SREs to environments of care beyond hospital settings. The Steering Committee has decided that the following environments of care, in addition to hospitals, will be priority areas for SREs in 2010:

- outpatient and office-based surgery centers;
- nursing homes, specifically skilled nursing facilities; and
- ambulatory practice settings, specifically physician offices.

**NQF is requesting the following inputs during this Call for Serious Reportable Events:**

- 1) submissions regarding modifications or deletions to the current 28 SREs as listed, with rationale for such changes;
- 2) submissions regarding the current 28 SREs and whether, or how, they are appropriate for the additional environments of care listed above; and
- 3) submissions of new SREs that should be considered for addition to the existing NQF list of 28 SREs.

*For an item to be considered, the following information must be submitted to NQF:*

- Submitter Information (to be completed via form below)
  - 1) name of organization (if any),
  - 2) name of individual submitting event,
  - 3) address including city/state/zip code,
  - 4) telephone and fax number, and
  - 5) e-mail address
- Detailed information as required by the Serious Reportable Event Submission Form regarding proposed new events or proposed modification to existing events.

Materials should be submitted via email to [patientsafety@qualityforum.org](mailto:patientsafety@qualityforum.org) Attn: "SRE Submissions"

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION:** All nominations MUST be submitted by **6:00pm EDT on Wednesday, June 16, 2010.**

**QUESTIONS:** If you have any questions, please contact Lindsey Tighe, MS, at 202-783-1300 or via e-mail at [ltighe@qualityforum.org](mailto:ltighe@qualityforum.org). Thank you.