

NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM

CONFERENCE CALL OF THE SERIOUS REPORTABLE EVENTS IN HEALTHCARE TECHNICAL ADVISORY PANEL FOR SKILLED NURSING FACILITIES

August 10, 2010

TAP members present: Eric Tangalos, MD, FACP, AGSF, CMD (chairperson); Debra Bakerjian, PhD, MSN, FNP; Randall Huss, MD; Gloria Jelinek, RN, MSN, JD; James Lett, MD, CMD; Laura Wagner, PhD, RN

NQF Staff: Peter Angood, MD; Ann Hammersmith, JD; Melinda Murphy, RN MS; Lindsey Tighe, MS

Others Present: Rita Munley Gallagher, PhD, RN; Kay Jewell

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Dr. Angood welcomed the Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) members and thanked them for their participation. Ms. Hammersmith, general counsel for NQF, then asked the TAP members to provide an oral disclosure of interest. Members noted no conflicts.

PROJECT UPDATE

Dr. Angood provided the TAP members with a brief update of other ongoing National Quality Forum (NQF) projects related to patient safety. He explained that a reporting framework for patient safety events had been drafted, voted upon by NQF membership, and approved by NQF's Consensus Standards Approval Committee. This report provides guidance to issuers of public reports of adverse patient safety events. The report is scheduled to go to the NQF Board for endorsement during Fall 2010. Dr. Angood also noted that Common Formats for reporting of adverse events have been developed by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), and NQF currently convenes an expert panel that provides ongoing guidance and recommendations for refinement to the Common Formats based on comments received through its web-based commenting tool. Dr. Angood informed the TAP that patient safety measures are currently being vetted through NQF's Consensus Development Process, and it is likely that these measures will be complementary to some of the Serious Reportable Events (SREs).

EVALUATION OF EXISTING SERIOUS REPORTABLE EVENTS

Dr. Tangalos led the TAP members in discussion of the current listing of the existing Serious Reportable Events.

For convenience and succinctness, salient points of the discussion are captured in the spreadsheets attached to the minutes.

- Overall Discussion
 - An SRE list for skilled nursing facilities (SNF) is appropriate and may prove valuable in driving improvement. The latter can be facilitated through tailoring implementation guidance to illuminate issues specific to the environment.
 - The questions posed by the evaluation template were addressed by exception with the first question addressed being relevance to the SNF setting. Failing an affirmative response to that question, there was no further consideration of the event.
 - An affirmative response to questions regarding whether the SRE is discrete, auditable, and clearly defined is assumed absent specific discussion of the matter.

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- In general, all the SREs are considered serious and either preventable or largely preventable. Ambiguity is an issue in a number of the events either generally or in the SNF setting. Where particularly relevant, these issues are discussed in the spreadsheet.
 - Preventability is discussed in the spreadsheet as the TAP determined appropriate.
 - The question regarding susceptibility to inaccuracies, errors or unintended consequences was, with rare exception, not explored; where it was discussed, that discussion is included on the spreadsheet.
 - Where applicable, definitions should be harmonized with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services/state operations manual.
 - Unless specifically relevant to the SNF setting, the TAP did not address proposed modifications to the individual SREs based on the notation that they are for Steering Committee discussion.
- Event-Specific General Discussion
 - When defined to include invasive procedures and clarified in terms of the “level” of the procedure or injury, the surgical events apply to SNFs. Consideration should be given to revising the event descriptions 1.A. – 1.D. by replacing “surgery” with “invasive procedure.”
 - The criminal events should not be combined based on their heterogeneity.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Gallagher expressed appreciation for the TAP’s work on behalf of the nation’s nurses and others. She commended the inclusion of negative events that impact staff of Skilled Nursing Facilities.

EVALUATION OF NEWLY SUBMITTED SERIOUS REPORTABLE EVENTS

All discussion related to the new submissions is reflected in the spreadsheet.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments during the second public commenting period.

NEXT STEPS

TAP members were informed that a summary of the call would be distributed for their approval in the upcoming week. This summary would then be presented by Dr. Tangalos to the Steering Committee for the Serious Reportable Events in Healthcare project. The Steering Committee meetings are scheduled for the end of August and beginning of September. If the Steering Committee has any questions for the TAP, the TAP will be notified via e-mail and a conference call may be scheduled.

Once the Steering Committee makes the final decisions regarding recommendation for endorsement of the events, a draft report will be prepared. This draft report will be posted to NQF’s website for NQF Member and public comment.

Adjourn.