

THE NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM

National Consensus Standards for the Prevention and Care of Deep Vein Thrombosis

PURPOSE

This project seeks to: 1) develop and endorse performance measures to assess the quality of care for persons at risk for deep vein thrombosis (DVT); 2) achieve consensus on evidence-based preferred practices to prevent DVT through the evaluation and treatment of persons at risk for DVT; 3) identify model organizational policies and procedures for the prevention and care of persons at risk for DVT; and 4) catalyze the adoption and use of these best practices, performance measures, and model policies in every care setting.

BACKGROUND

Approximately 2 million Americans suffer from deep vein thrombosis (DVT) each year, and 600,000 of these persons subsequently develop pulmonary thromboembolism (PE), which causes some 200,000 deaths. This condition remains the most common preventable cause of death related to hospital care. Current estimates suggest that only about 30 to 40 percent of patients who should be treated to prevent DVT actually receive such treatment. In 2003, NQF endorsed Safe Practice 17—*Evaluate each patient upon admission, and regularly thereafter, for the risk of developing DVT/venous thromboembolism (VTE). Utilize clinically appropriate methods to prevent DVT/VTE*—in recognition that the incidence of DVT/VTE is a significant patient safety issue. This project builds on Safe Practice 17 by developing and endorsing specific performance measures to evaluate provider adherence to best practices in DVT/VTE prevention.

SCOPE

This project will

- Recommend a framework to measure effective prevention, screening, and treatment for persons at risk for DVT across the continuum of care settings;
- Identify, endorse, and disseminate a set of DVT prevention and care preferred practices to promote quality care for persons at risk for DVT and work to catalyze their adoption and use;
- Identify, develop, pilot test, and endorse performance measures to evaluate the quality of care for persons at risk for DVT; and
- Identify model DVT prevention organization policies and procedures.

THE NQF PROCESS

This project, like all NQF activities, will include the active participation of representatives from across the spectrum of healthcare stakeholders and will be guided by a Steering Committee. Development and testing of the measures will be conducted under a subcontract to the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. Consensus will be developed through NQF's formal consensus development process.

FUNDING

Aventis Inc. has provided an unrestricted educational grant in support of this project.

For more information, contact Tammy B. McBride, RN, BSN, at 202.783.1300 or info@qualityforum.org.