

# THE NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM

## AMBULATORY CARE PROJECT CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

**OBJECTIVE:** The National Quality Forum (NQF) is seeking nominations for members of the Review/Steering Committee and several Technical Advisory Panels (TAP) for the Ambulatory Care Project. The objective of the project is to develop a set of voluntary consensus standards to assess the quality of care provided in ambulatory care settings in the United States. All nominations MUST be submitted by **6:00pm EST, December 20, 2004**.

**BACKGROUND:** In Phase I of this project, nearly 100 NQF Members participated in Workgroups in April 2004 to identify 10 priority areas for which ambulatory performance measures should be sought for possible NQF endorsement as voluntary consensus standards. The 10 priority areas are:

- Patient experience with care
- Medication management
- Hypertension
- Coordination of care
- Heart disease
- Depression
- Asthma
- Diabetes
- Obesity
- Prevention (1? and 2? including immunization)
- [+prenatal and bone conditions]\*

Also in April, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) requested that an ambulatory measure set—including measures from AMA’s Physician Performance Measurement Set, CMS’s Doctor’s Office Quality project, and NCQA—be considered under the expedited consensus process so as to “jump start” an ambulatory care performance measure set. This request was approved by the Board of Directors with the proviso that during a full phase II of the project (wherein a “Call for Measures” will be performed), measures endorsed during the expedited phase will be re-examined against all available measures in a priority area (e.g., measures received in response to the Call).

One Review/Steering Committee will be appointed to encompass both the expedited phase consideration of the ambulatory measures submitted by CMS/AMA/NCQA and the subsequent full Phase II. (“Review Committee” is used for an expedited project as a label to distinguish it from a full consensus project involving a Call for Measures.) During both stages, Technical Advisory Panels (TAPs) in each priority area will make recommendations on whether specific measures should be considered by the Review/Steering Committee.

**COMPOSITION OF THE REVIEW/STEERING COMMITTEE:** The Review/Steering Committee (18-20 individuals) will represent the full range of stakeholder perspectives. It will be comprised of consumers, purchasers, quality improvement organizations, researchers and healthcare professionals possessing relevant knowledge and/or expertise in quality of ambulatory care and/or the specific priority areas. Additionally, all nominations also will be considered for appointments to the TAPs unless the nomination expressly indicates it is only for the Steering Committee or only for a TAP. *Priority will be given to NQF Members.*

**TECHNICAL ADVISORY PANELS:** Each priority area will have one TAP. Recommendations by the TAP will provide the technical foundation for Review/Steering Committee discussions.

\*Because the ambulatory care measure set submitted for expedited review includes measures in the areas of bone conditions and prenatal care, TAPs for these two areas also will be constituted.

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**TIME COMMITMENT:** Review/Steering Committee, nominees must be willing to attend six or seven meetings over the course of the 2.5-year project period and participate in conference calls as needed. Meetings will be in the Washington, DC area, with the first meeting anticipated in March 2005.

For TAPs, nominees must be willing to participate in 2-5 conference calls per year (depending on the number of candidate measures available for that priority area) and 1 in-person meeting during the full consensus period (late 2005/early 2006).

Please note that nominations are to an individual, not an organization, so “substitutions” of other individuals from an organizations at meetings are not permitted. If an individual is routinely unable to attend meetings participate in conference calls once the appointment is made, a substitution from the same organization will be permitted only under very extraordinary circumstances. Instead, depending on the timing, a new appointment will be made from the existing nominations or the slot will remain vacant.

**MATERIAL TO SUBMIT:** Self-nominations are welcome. Third-party nominations must indicate that the individual has been contacted and is willing to serve. To be considered for appointment to either the Review/Steering Committee or one of the TAPs, please send the following information:

- A 2-page letter of interest, highlighting experience/knowledge relevant to performance measurement, public reporting or one of the priority areas.
- Curriculum vitae and/or list of relevant experience (e.g., publications) *up to 20 pages*.
- Complete contact information (address, phone, fax, *and* e-mail) for the nominated individual.

Again, nominated individuals will be considered for both the Review/Steering Committee and/or the TAPs, unless otherwise noted. Materials should be forwarded by fax/U.S. mail, return receipt/overnight/hand delivery—no e-mail please.

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**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION:** Because of the breadth of this project, the nomination period will be 40 days instead of the usual 30-day period. All nominations MUST be submitted by **6:00pm EST, December 20, 2004**.

**QUESTIONS:** If you have any questions, please contact, Sabrina Zadrozny, at 202.783.1300. Thank you for your assistance!