

THE NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM

NURSING HOME PERFORMANCE MEASURES

PURPOSE

This project will establish consensus around a core set of performance measures for chronic and post-acute nursing facility care that will be used for quality improvement and public reporting.

BACKGROUND

Ongoing concern about the quality of care provided to residents of chronic and post-acute care nursing facilities demands effective methods for measuring and reporting the quality of care, both across institutions and over time. The Institute of Medicine's 2001 report, *Improving the Quality of Long-term Care*, concluded that there is a "lack of standard measurement tools and data to use in more systematic assessments of the quality of care in various long-term care settings."

Currently, patients, families, and purchasers who wish to assess the quality of care of nursing facilities must generally resort to features such as the subjective appeal of a facility, characteristics of residents and staff, or limited information based on periodic inspection surveys. Recent research has focused on more specific measures of quality based on facility performance in the processes and outcomes of care, but such measures are not widely used. A core set of performance measures for chronic and post-acute care nursing facilities would provide tools for regulators, purchasers, and consumers to evaluate the quality of care in these facilities, as well as providing the metrics by which facilities could assess and improve the quality of care they provide.

SCOPE

This project will:

- Identify a small set of performance measures for chronic and post-acute nursing facility care for a 6-state pilot project; and
- Endorse a core set of performance measures for chronic and post-acute care nursing facilities that are useful for public reporting to purchasers and consumers.

THE NQF PROCESS

This project, like all NQF activities, involves the active participation of representatives from across the spectrum of healthcare stakeholders. The project is guided by a Steering Committee, which will recommend quality measures for chronic and post-acute care nursing facilities that have been evaluated by outside review. Agreement around the core set will be developed through NQF's formal consensus process. The final core set of performance measures will then be disseminated and implemented through NQF member organizations, public agencies, and other interested bodies.

FUNDING

Funding for this project has been provided by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

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THE NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM
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