



# NQF's Health Equity Program

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# Employs A Comprehensive, Multi-Year, Action-Oriented Approach

Aligns with NQF's transformation of pursuing improvement in healthcare quality for all

Includes a planned, broad portfolio of cross-cutting projects that put into action guidance laid out by NQF's substantive work in health equity

Incorporates our leadership of practical, action-oriented initiatives and facilitation of measure development to address critical gaps

Brings together partners to leverage national efforts

# Builds on Ability to Convene Stakeholders and A Decade of Thought Leadership

## Measure Selection and Endorsement

- Healthcare Disparities & Cultural Competence
- Health and Wellbeing
- Prevention and Population Health
- MAP Adult and Child Core Sets
- Measure Prioritization

## Measurement Frameworks

- Population Health
- Rural Health
- Home and Community-Based Services
- Food Insecurity and Housing Instability
- Cultural Competency

## Principles and Best Practices

- Disparities-Sensitive Measure Criteria
- Guiding Principles for Culturally Competent Care
- Community Action Guide
- Risk Adjustment for Socioeconomic Status (SES)

## Implementation Guidance

- Approach for Taking Action on Social Determinants of Health (SDOH)
- Roadmap to Promote Health Equity and Eliminate Disparities

# NQF's Health Equity Program



**IDENTIFY**  
disparities  
and at-risk  
populations

**INFLUENCE**  
performance  
measurement

**INSPIRE**  
implementation  
of best  
practices

**INFORM**  
payment

# Identify Disparities and Those Affected by Health Inequity

IDENTIFY  
disparities  
and at-risk  
populations

## NQF Will:

- Promote a common understanding and standardized language around health equity to address data and infrastructure challenges
- Gather innovative strategies for social risk factor data collection and use

## Projects:

- Approaches to address data challenges
- Identification, showcase of innovative examples from the field
- SDOH measurement frameworks

# Influence Performance Measurement

INFLUENCE  
performance  
measurement

## NQF Will:

- Facilitate development of needed measures to promote health equity and reduce disparities
- Drive toward the systematic approach laid out in the NQF Health Equity Roadmap for using measures to eliminate disparities and promote health equity

## Projects:

- Measure concepts to fill measurement gaps
- Facilitation of measure development and testing
- Technical expertise on high priority measures

# Inspire Implementation of Best Practices through Innovative Approaches



## NQF Will:

- Lead and engage strategic partners to implement effective interventions and best practices
- Disseminate effective interventions, best practices, and lessons learned
- Facilitate use of innovative, successful interventions

## Projects:

- Practical, applied implementation guidance
- Education and peer forums to share resources and solutions

# Inform Payment

INFORM  
payment

## NQF Will:

- Convene experts to address the impact of payment on health equity
- Spur resource allocation to those meaningfully affecting change
- Create tools and resources to facilitate uptake of payment models that promote health equity
- Explore emerging issues related to risk adjusting performance measures for social risk factors

## Projects:

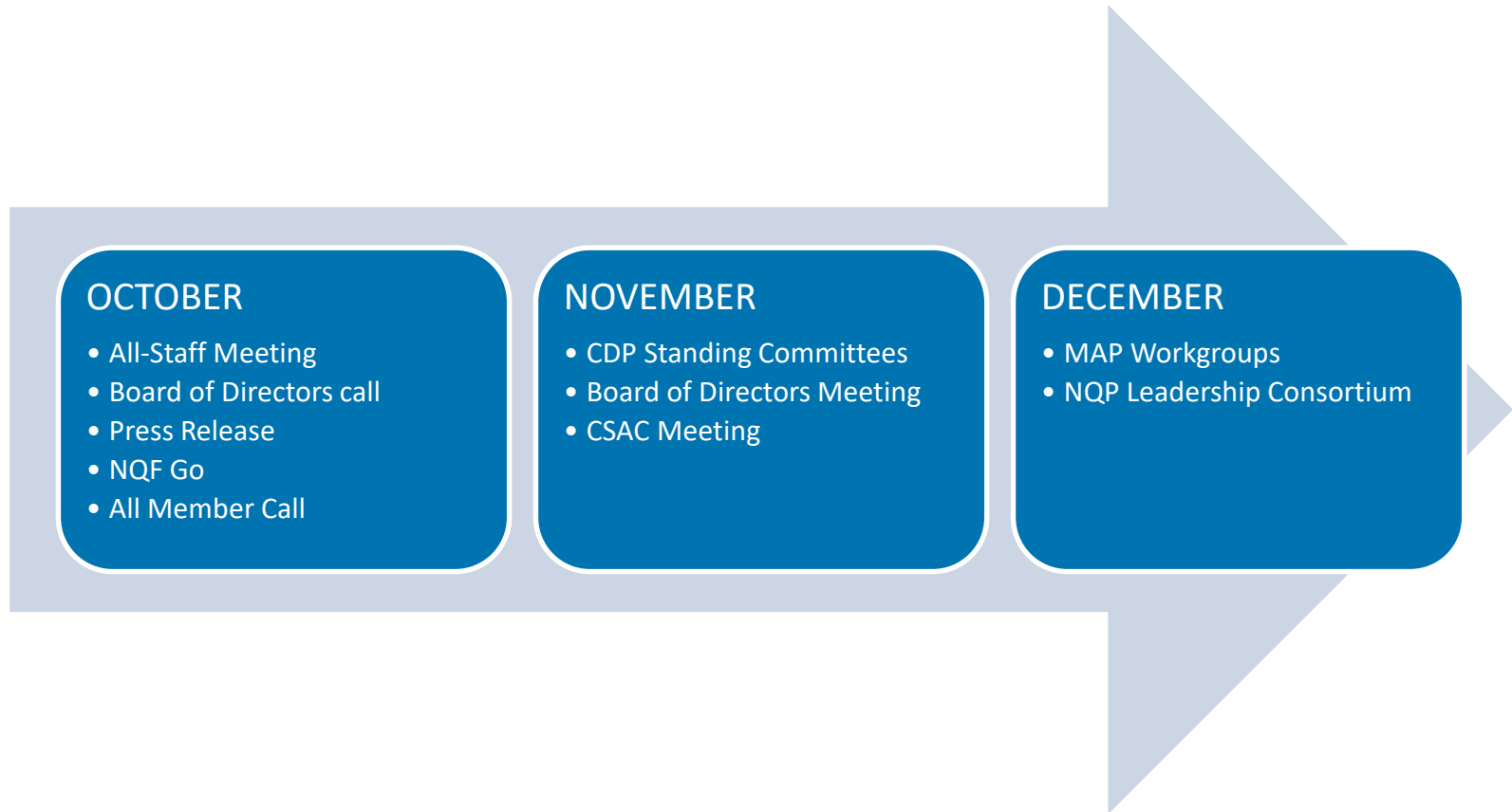
- Continuing work on SDS Trial
- Convening experts to develop payment guidance



# Business Development

- Seek new private and public funding from external partners to support Program activities
- Present a “menu” of potential funding opportunities that align with NQF priorities for the Program
- Use multiple funding approaches
- Align and coordinate funder outreach across departments

# Program Milestones



# Inform Payment

## *Continuation of the SDS Trial/Social Risk Factor Initiative*



- April 2015, NQF began a two-year, self-funded trial of a policy change that allowed risk-adjustment of performance measures for social risk factors.
- Findings from the trial (April 2015 to April 2017):
  - adjustment may be feasible but remains challenging
  - limited availability of adequate social risk factors data
  - significant heterogeneity of social risk data and modeling approaches

# Inform Payment

## *Continuation of the SDS Trial/Social Risk Factor Initiative*



- NQF Board approved a new 3-year initiative, where NQF will continue to allow the inclusion of social risk factors in outcome measures.

### **Through the continuation of the SDS Trial, NQF will:**

- Identify preferred methodologies to link the conceptual basis for adjustment with the analyses to support it
- Develop guidance for measure developers
- Explore alternative data sources and provide guidance to the field on how to obtain and use advanced social risk factors data
- Evaluate risk models for appropriate social and clinical factors
- Explore the impact of social risk adjustment on reimbursement and access to care

# Inform Payment

## *Continuation of the SDS Trial/Social Risk Factor Initiative*



### **As part of the implementation of the SDS Trial, NQF will:**

- Continue to consider if an outcome measure submitted for endorsement consideration, includes the appropriate social and clinical factors in its risk model.
- Convene the new Scientific Methods Panel and Disparities Standing Committee to provide guidance on the methodological questions that arose during the initial trial period.