



## NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM

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April 15, 2015

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

Thank you for the invitation to participate in the White House Summit on Antibiotic Stewardship. The National Quality Forum (NQF) is committed to supporting this important effort and looks forward to identifying opportunities for partnership, collaboration, and collective action.

NQF is an independent, non-profit, nonpartisan organization that works to catalyze improvements in the nation's health and healthcare. As an essential forum for multistakeholder engagement and a leader in advancing health quality, NQF routinely convenes stakeholders to establish consensus and spur action on important health policy issues. As the gold standard for healthcare quality, NQF-endorsed measures are evidence-based and valid, and in tandem with the delivery of care and payment reform, help to improve health and healthcare quality. NQF is skilled at building consensus on challenging and controversial healthcare issues, and as a neutral convener ensures that diverse stakeholder perspectives are captured and voiced. NQF's membership includes 400+ organizational partners from all healthcare sectors, including consumers, health professionals and providers across the continuum of care, purchasers, health plans, community initiatives, and industry groups.

NQF understands the imperative to address antibiotic resistance, utilization, and stewardship as a matter of public health and patient safety, and applauds the Administration for taking such bold measures to elevate this issue to a national initiative. Over the past nine months, we have been working with many public- and private-sector partners, including the National Committee for Quality Assurance, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, the Infectious Diseases Society of America, the Institute for Healthcare Improvement, several major health systems, and others to promote system-level improvements within the healthcare system to address antibiotic utilization and improve stewardship nationally.

NQF is pleased to offer three commitments to this initiative:

- NQF will work with federal agencies and private-sector stakeholders to encourage the development and submission of performance measures that can be used in quality improvement and accountability programs for benchmarking and improving appropriate antibiotic utilization through better stewardship. As measures are

submitted to NQF for endorsement, we will work to expedite the process so that, if endorsed, the measures are positioned for rapid implementation in public and private programs. Additionally, NQF will encourage and support the use of antibiotic resistance and utilization measures through our diverse membership and ongoing measure selection activities.

- NQF has convened a multistakeholder Action Team to activate our 400+ organizational members, and will promote a shared agenda for progress that is aligned with the National Action Plan to Combat Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria. In November 2014, NQF hosted a meeting of over 30 key stakeholders to lay out a path for the Action Team, which we are now sharing broadly with our membership. NQF is committed to building will and translating ideas into action by hosting additional events in the near future to foster partnerships that advance antibiotic stewardship programs.
- NQF will offer education and engagement opportunities to our members, beginning with a May 20, 2015 webinar to create the “burning platform” for antibiotic stewardship. Regular communications with members will keep this important issue at the front and center of the agenda and allow for an ongoing all-teach, all-learn approach to quality improvement.

NQF is working with several private sector partners who have expressed interest in supporting our Action Team’s work; however, longer-term funding would ensure that we could sustain a multi-year collaborative effort, which we believe will be necessary to achieve meaningful and lasting results.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our enthusiasm and commitment to this work. We look forward to partnering with you and others to advance antibiotic stewardship nationally.

With warm regards,



Christine K. Cassel, MD  
President and CEO  
National Quality Forum