



NATIONAL
QUALITY FORUM

Scientific Methods Panel Monthly Call Meeting

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February 8, 2018

Welcome, Roll Call, and Review of Meeting Objectives

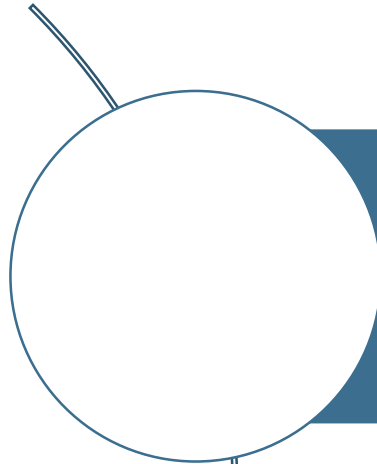
Scientific Methods Panel Members

David Cella, PhD, (Co-Chair)

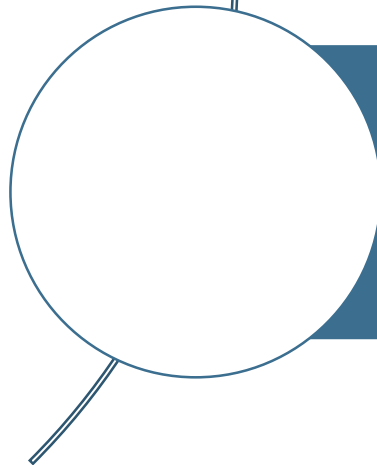
Karen Joynt Maddox, MD, MPH (Co-Chair)

J. Matt Austin, PhD	Paul Kurlansky, MD
Bijan Borah, MSc, PhD	Zhenqiu Lin, PhD
John Bott, MBA, MSSW	Jack Needleman, PhD
Lacy Fabian, PhD	David Nerenz, PhD
Marybeth Farquhar, PhD, MSN, RN	Eugene Nuccio, PhD
Jeffrey Geppert, EdM, JD	Jennifer Perloff, PhD
Paul Gerrard, BS, MD	Sam Simon, PhD
Laurent Glance, MD	Michael Stoto, PhD
Stephen Horner, RN, BSN, MBA	Christie Teigland, PhD
Sherrie Kaplan, PhD, MPH	Ronald Walters, MD, MBA, MHA, MS
Joseph Kunisch, PhD, RN-BC, CPHQ	Susan White, PhD, RHIA, CHDA

Meeting Objectives



Review Methods Panel Process Updates



Methodologic Issues Discussion:
Split-Half Method

Methods Panel Process Updates

Process Updates

- Will allow informal discussions between evaluators (phone or e-mail) but still require separate evaluations
- For maintenance measures, we will provide a summary of the last evaluation
 - *For informational purposes only*
 - *Decisions made in last evaluation should not influence your evaluation*
- For risk-adjusted measures
 - *Inclusion (or not) of certain factors in the risk-adjustment approach should not be a reason for rejecting a measure*
 - » Concerns with discrimination, calibration, or overall method of adjustment are still grounds for rejecting a measure
- For all measures
 - *Incomplete or ambiguous specifications are grounds for rejecting a measure—but remember that there is an option to get clarifications, although this must be done early on*

Process Updates

- Subgroups to discuss methodologic topics
 - *Risk adjustment*
 - » Appropriate statistics for discrimination/calibration
 - » Best practices
 - » Ways to incorporate social risk
 - *Testing methodologies*
 - » Ways to assess variance between and within providers
 - » Methods appropriate for surveys/instruments
 - » Identifying thresholds or rules of thumb
 - *Emerging measurement approaches*
 - » eCQMs – should NQF modify requirements for testing, etc.? If so, how?

Process Updates

■ Preliminary Analysis Evaluation Form

□ *Revisions*

- » Revised directions
- » Continuous numbering
- » Reordering questions

□ *Quality Assurance process*

- » Combination of phone calls and email between panel members and NQF staff regarding any issues with completing the PA Form

□ *Reminder: Your responses will be made publicly available*

■ Spring 2018 Cycle

□ *21 measures assigned to the Methods Panel*

□ *All evaluations due to NQF by 6pm ET, March 2, 2018*

- » We highly recommend an early perusal of your assigned measures to facilitate timely informal discussions with your triad partners, requests for clarifications, or input on criteria from staff

Methodologic Issue: Split-Half Method for Score-Level Testing

Background

- Reliability testing of the measure score addresses precision of measurement (e.g., signal-to-noise)
 - *Is the variation between providers primarily due to real differences? Or is it because there is a lot of "noise" in the measurement?*
- “Split-Half” Method:
 - *Randomly split each hospital’s cases into two subsets*
 - *Compute measure for each subset for each hospital?*
 - *Calculate ICC [2,1] between the subsets across the hospitals*
 - » Sometimes, bootstrapping used
 - » Maybe Pearson’s correlation rather than ICC (?) [staff will clarify]

Questions to Consider

- Can this method answer the question of ability to distinguish between providers?
- Does this method provide other insights (even if not score-level reliability)?
- Should we continue to accept this method of testing?
 - *If not, why not?*
 - *If so, do you have any recommendations regarding this testing?*
 - » Nomenclature
 - » Statistics used
 - » Appropriateness (or encouragement) around bootstrapping

Member and Public Comment

Next Steps

- Monthly 1 hour Calls
 - *Every 2nd Thursday of the month*
 - *Next call: March 8, 3pm ET*
- Complete measure evaluations by **March 2**
- In-Person meeting: May 2018
- Contact Information: methodspanel@qualityforum.org

Adjourn