



NATIONAL
QUALITY FORUM

Scientific Methods Panel Orientation Meeting: Introduction and Process Overview

NQF Methods Panel Team

August 26, 2019

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Scientific Methods Panel (SMP) Charge
- Brief Overview of NQF and the Consensus Development Process
- SMP Evaluation Process
- Methods Panel Reviews to Date
- What to Expect in the Fall 2019 Evaluation Cycle
- SharePoint Overview
- Public Comment
- Next Steps

NQF Scientific Methods Panel Team

- Content Leads
 - ▣ *Karen Johnson, MS*
 - ▣ *Ashlie Wilbon, MS, MPH, FNP-C*
 - ▣ *Sam Stolpe, PharmD, MPH*
 - ▣ *Michael Abrams, MPH, PhD*
 - ▣ *Andrew Lyzenga, MPP*
- Project Management
 - ▣ *Yetunde Ogungbemi, BS*
 - ▣ *Roara Michael, MHA*

NQF's Scientific Methods Panel Team



Michael Abrams
Senior Director



Karen Johnson
Senior Director



Andrew Lyzenga
Senior Director



Roara Michael
Project Manager



Yetunde Ogungbemi
Project Manager



Sam Stolpe
Senior Director



Ashlie Wilbon
Senior Director

New Scientific Methods Panel Members

Daniel Deutscher, PT, PhD

National Director of Research and Development, Maccabi Healthcare Services

Joseph Hyder, MD

Associate Professor, Mayo Clinic

Sean O'Brien, PhD

Associate Professor of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics, Duke University Medical Center

Patrick Romano, MD, MPH

Professor, University of California Davis

David Salkever, PhD

Professor Emeritus, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

Alex Sox-Harris, PhD, MS

Associate Professor of Research, Department of Surgery, Stanford University

Terri Warholak, PhD, RPh, CPHQ, FAPhA

Assistant Dean of Academic Affairs and Assessment and Professor at the University of Arizona, College of Pharmacy

Eric Weinhandl, PhD, MS

Senior Director, Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Fresenius Medical Care North America

Current Scientific Methods Panel Members

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

Scientific Methods Panel Charge

Background

- SMP was formed as a result of recommendations from NQF's May 2017 Kaizen event to redesign our Consensus Development Process (CDP)
 - ▣ *Promote more consistent evaluations of Scientific Acceptability criterion*
 - ▣ *Reduce standing committee burden*
 - ▣ *Hopefully—promote greater participation of consumers, patients, and purchasers on NQF standing committees*
- Feedback to date indicates the implementation of the SMP has achieved these goals
 - ▣ *Ongoing process improvement*

Methods Panel Charge

- Conduct evaluation of complex measures for the criterion of Scientific Acceptability, with a focus on reliability and validity analyses and results
- Serve in an advisory capacity to NQF on methodologic issues, including those related to measure testing, risk-adjustment, and measurement approaches

Evaluation of the Scientific Acceptability Criterion

Provide evaluation and ratings for reliability and validity subcriteria

- This information will help to inform the standing committee's endorsement decision
- The Scientific Methods Panel will not render endorsement recommendations
- Standing committees may raise additional concerns or otherwise discuss the measures
- Standing committees do not necessarily have to accept the ratings of the SMP

A Few More Details...

- SMP only evaluates complex measures
 - ▣ *Outcome measures, including intermediate clinical outcomes*
 - ▣ *Instrument-based measures (e.g., PRO-PMs)*
 - ▣ *Cost/resource use measures*
 - ▣ *Efficiency measures (those combining concepts of resource use and quality)*
 - ▣ *Composite measures*
- Workload ~5-8 measures per cycle (per panel member)
 - ▣ *We will try to match you based on expertise, availability, and need for recusal*

A Few More Details...

- Disclosure of Interest policy is the same as for standing committees
 - ▣ *Annual disclosure (general disclosures)*
 - ▣ *Measure-specific (twice per year, based on specific measures under review)*
- Terms
 - ▣ *Initial 3-year appointment (6 evaluation cycles)*
 - ▣ *Additional 2-year follow-on appointment (4 evaluation cycles) (optional)*

Advisory Function

- Advise on methodologic issues related to measure testing, risk adjustment, and measurement approaches
 - ▣ *Thresholds or rules of thumb for rating reliability and validity*
 - ▣ *Approaches to testing*
 - ▣ *Approaches for risk adjustment*
 - ▣ *Testing requirements and ratings for reliability and validity*
- SMP recommendations are nonbinding
 - ▣ *Changes to criteria/guidance subject to review and approval by the Consensus Standards Approval Committee (CSAC)*
- Guide NQF's development of a toolkit of online resources and guidance for measure developers
 - ▣ *Contribute to white papers as desired*
- Advisory discussions will be the focus of bi-monthly, 2-hour calls
 - ▣ *No calls during intent to submit period (i.e., during SMP measure evaluation)*

Questions?

Overview of NQF and the Consensus Development Process (CDP)

The National Quality Forum: A Unique Role

Established in 1999, NQF is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership-based organization that brings together public and private sector stakeholders to reach consensus on healthcare performance measurement. The goal is to make healthcare in the U.S. better, safer, and more affordable.

Mission: To be the trusted voice driving measurable health improvements

- An Essential Forum
- Gold Standard for Quality Measurement
- Leadership in Quality



Activities in Multiple Measurement Areas

- **Endorsement**
 - ▣ *500+ NQF-endorsed measures across multiple clinical areas*
 - ▣ *15 empaneled standing expert committees + Scientific Methods Panel*
- **Measure Applications Partnership (MAP)**
 - ▣ *Advises HHS on selecting measures for various federal quality improvement programs*
- **National Quality Partners**
 - ▣ *Convenes stakeholders around critical health and healthcare topics*
 - ▣ *Spurs action: recent examples include playbooks for antibiotic stewardship (acute care/PAC-LTC), opioid stewardship, and shared decision making; action teams on serious mental illness and social determinants of health*
- **Measurement Science**
 - ▣ *Convenes private and public sector leaders to reach consensus on complex issues in healthcare performance measurement*
 - » *Examples include HCBS, rural issues, telehealth, interoperability, attribution, diagnostic accuracy, disparities, ED transitions, health system readiness*

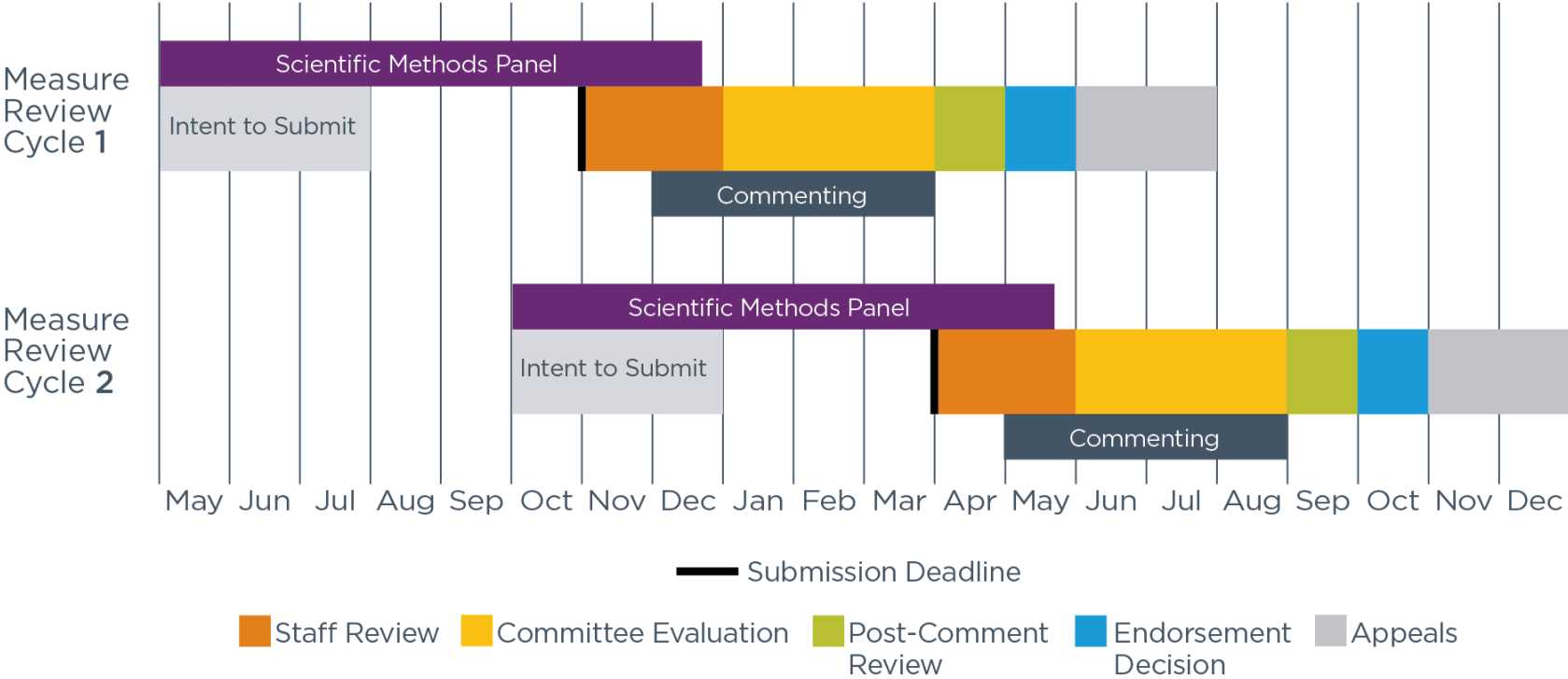
NQF Consensus Development Process (CDP)

6 Steps for Measure Endorsement

- Call for nominations for Standing Committee
- Call for candidate standards (measures)
- Candidate consensus standards review
- Public and member comment
- Consensus Standards Approval Committee (CSAC) endorsement
- Appeals

NQF Consensus Development Process (CDP)

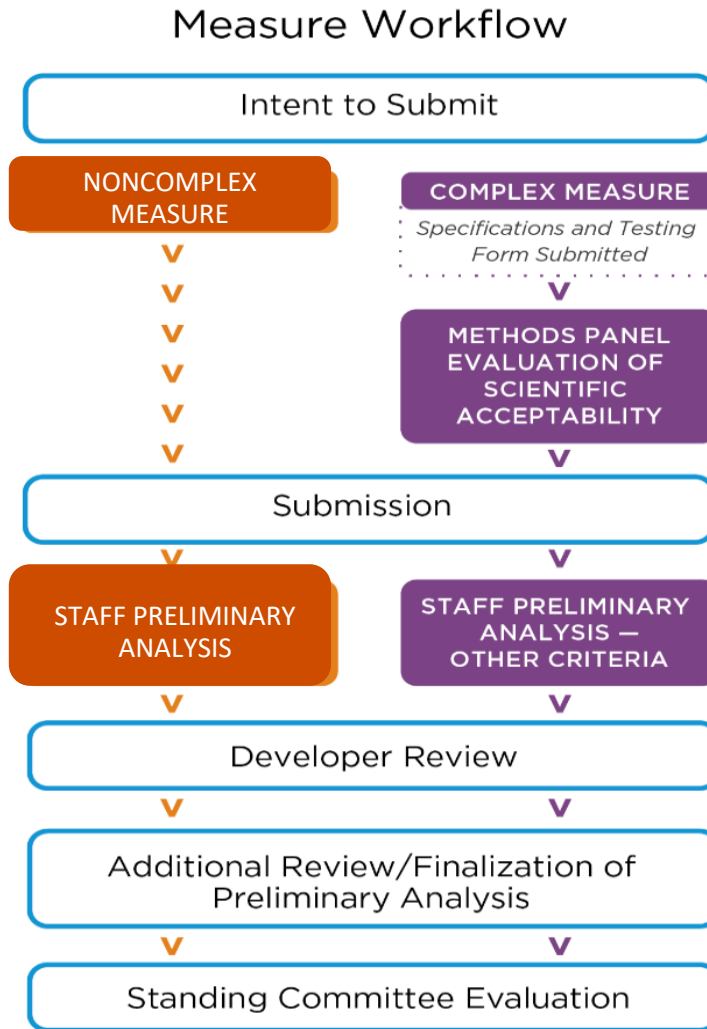
Consensus Development Process:
Two Cycles Every Contract Year



Questions?

SMP Evaluation Process

Technical Review (Scientific Acceptability Criteria)



When complex measures are submitted to NQF

- Developers submit specifications (i.e., measure information form, code lists) and measure testing information
- NQF team reviews measures for the following:
 - ▣ Testing is performed at requisite levels (data element and/or measure score)
 - ▣ Testing is aligned with specifications
 - ▣ Administrative claims measures are specified and/or tested using ICD-10 codes
 - ▣ All required submission form items have a response
 - ▣ Maintenance measures submitted without a rationale for submitting with face validity only
- SMP completes measure-specific disclosures of interest
- NQF team assigns measures to subgroups based on expertise and conflicts of interest

SMP Measure Evaluation Process

- SMP divided into subgroups to evaluate measures
 - ▣ *Historically, 4 subgroups of 5-6 members; each group reviewed ~8-12 measures*
- 4-week review period for subgroups to complete preliminary analyses
 - ▣ *Apply the NQF Scientific Acceptability criteria for reliability and validity via a standardized form*
- Each subgroup member submits a preliminary analysis (PA) for each assigned measure
- NQF staff compiles subgroup votes and identifies measures for subgroup discussion
 - ▣ *Consensus not reached among subgroup, pulled by an SMP member, pulled by NQF staff*
- Subgroup discussion on a subset of assigned measures

NQF Staff Role

- Ensure NQF criteria are applied appropriately, and provide guidance as needed
- Ensure the NQF process is followed, and provide process guidance as needed
- Facilitate discussion and passing of information between measure developers and the SMP
- Identify key issues/concerns for discussion
- Prepare and distribute meeting materials
- Co-facilitate meetings with SMP co-chairs
- Provide summary of SMP discussions for standing committees

Questions?

What to Expect for the Fall 2019 Evaluation Cycle

Fall 2019 Evaluation Cycle

NQF will be implementing new processes to:

- Eliminate wasteful processes (i.e., high effort for little return)
- Reduce workload of the SMP members
- Increase developer engagement with the SMP
- Increase transparency of the process
- Limit the “gatekeeper” function of the SMP

Increasing Developer Engagement with the SMP

- NQF will provide developers the “raw” preliminary analyses and comments from each subgroup member assigned to evaluate the measure
- Developers will have 5 business days to review the PAs and provide written responses to any concerns or issues raised in the PAs (if desired)
- NQF will append any written responses to meeting materials (for the SMP review) prior to the in-person evaluation meeting in October
- Final voting on the measure will take place at the in-person meeting
- Developers will be able to respond to questions and provide clarifications for the SMP during the meeting

Increasing Transparency

- Standing Committees will receive detailed summaries of measures that did not pass the SMP's evaluation
- 2-day SMP in-person meeting will include opportunities for public commenting
- All meeting materials and summaries will be posted on the NQF website

SMP “Gatekeeper” Function

- We will continue to send measures that passed or where consensus was not reached to the CDP standing committees for further review
- Committee members will now have the opportunity to pull a measure that did not pass the SMP’s evaluation for discussion
 - *Detailed summary of SMP deliberations, measure specifications, and testing information will be provided to standing committees*
 - *Committee members can re-vote on eligible measures (as approved by NQF staff and Co-chairs)*

Committee Consideration of Measures that Do Not Pass the SMP

- Any measure pulled by a Standing Committee member will be discussed
- Some measures may be eligible for vote by the Standing Committee
 - ▣ *Eligibility will be determined by NQF staff and committee co-chairs*
 - ▣ *Measures that failed the SMP due to the following will not be eligible for re-vote:*
 - » Inappropriate methodology or testing approach applied to demonstrate reliability or validity
 - » Incorrect calculations or formulas used for testing
 - » Description of testing approach, results, or data is insufficient for SMP to apply the criteria
 - » Appropriate levels of testing not provided or otherwise did not meet NQF's minimum evaluation requirements

Committee Consideration of Measures that Do Not Pass the SMP

- For measures eligible for vote by the Committee:
 - ▣ *The full Committee must vote on whether to uphold the SMP's vote on reliability and validity*
 - » Vote to uphold → No further discussion of the measure
 - » CNR or vote to overturn SMP Vote → SC discusses and votes on reliability and validity

Fall 2019 Evaluation Cycle

- Approximately 20 measures coming to the SMP for evaluation
 - ▣ *8 new measures, remainder are maintenance measures being considered for continued endorsement or measures that were previously rejected by the SMP*
 - ▣ *Composite measures (n=4); PRO-PMs (n=3); remainder outcomes or intermediate clinical outcomes*
 - ▣ *No cost or readmission measures*
- 4 subgroups of 7-8 people each
 - ▣ *Target is ~5 measures per subgroup*
- SMP evaluates measures between September 3-27
- In-person meeting scheduled for October 28-29

Fall 2019 Evaluation Cycle

In-person meeting preparation

- 1st cycle where SMP will be discussing measures in-person
- NQF staff will prepare a discussion guide summarizing input from SMP members' preliminary analysis to hone discussion at the meeting on the key issues
- Developers may provide additional materials for your consideration prior to the meeting
- Discussion on broader methodological issues (time allowing)
- Developers will be present to respond to SMP questions, as needed
- Final materials will be shared 1 week in advance of meeting
- Voting process is TBD
 - *Subgroup vs. full panel*

Questions?

SharePoint Overview

SharePoint Overview

<http://share.qualityforum.org/Projects/NQF%20Scientific%20Methods%20Panel/SitePages/Home.aspx>

- Accessing SharePoint
- General Documents
- Meeting and Call Documents
- Measure Evaluation Documents
- Committee Roster and Biographies

SharePoint Overview

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NQF Scientific Methods Panel

General Documents

<input type="checkbox"/> Type	Name	Modified	<input type="checkbox"/> Modified By
	Scientific Methods Panel Charge	9/19/2017 5:41 PM	Miranda Kuwahara
	Scientific Methods Panel Roster	9/19/2017 5:41 PM	Miranda Kuwahara

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Meeting Documents

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SharePoint Overview

- **Please keep in mind:**

- *(+) and (-) signs :*

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Test document 

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Opportunity for Member and Public Comment

Important Dates

- Measure-specific DOIs: **Due August 23**
- Orientation Webinar 2 (Criteria): **August 28, 1-3 pm ET**
- SMP review of measures: **September 3-27**
- SMP in-person meeting: **October 28-29**
 - *Travel information will be distributed ~1 month prior to meeting*
- Have questions? Contact us at:
 - MethodsPanel@qualityforum.org

Questions?

THANK YOU