



NATIONAL  
QUALITY FORUM

# Scientific Methods Panel Monthly Call Meeting

NQF Methods Panel Team

*September 13, 2018*

# Welcome, Roll Call, and Review of Meeting Objectives

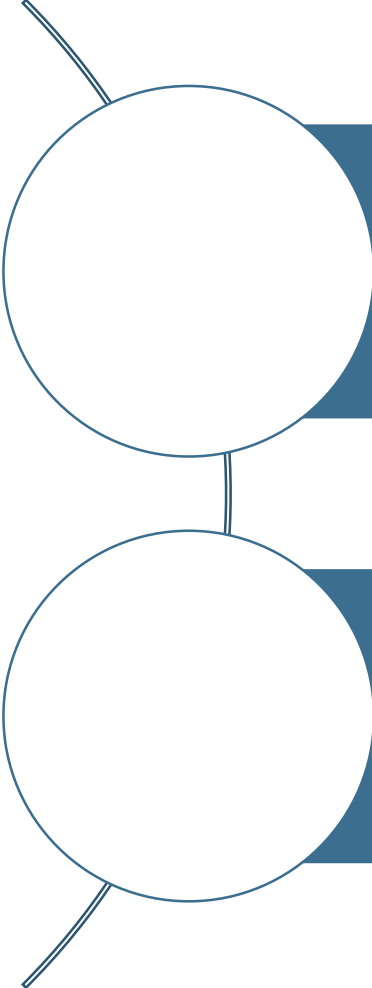
# Scientific Methods Panel Members

- David Cella, PhD, (Co-Chair)
- David Nerenz, PhD (Co-Chair)
- J. Matt Austin, PhD
- Bijan Borah, MSc, PhD
- John Bott, MBA, MSSW
- Lacy Fabian, PhD
- Marybeth Farquhar, PhD, MSN, RN
- Jeffrey Geppert, EdM, JD
- Paul Gerrard, BS, MD
- Laurent Glance, MD
- Stephen Horner, RN, BSN, MBA
- Sherrie Kaplan, PhD, MPH

# Scientific Methods Panel Members (continued)

- Joseph Kunisch, PhD, RN-BC, CPHQ
- Paul Kurlansky, MD
- Zhenqiu Lin, PhD
- Karen Joynt Maddox, MD, MPH
- Jack Needleman, PhD
- David Nerenz, PhD
- Eugene Nuccio, PhD
- Jennifer Perloff, PhD
- Sam Simon, PhD
- Michael Stoto, PhD
- Christie Teigland, PhD
- Ronald Walters, MD, MBA, MHA, MS
- Susan White, PhD, RHIA, CHDA

# Meeting Objectives



New Evaluation Process:  
Reminders and Q&A

Current Measure Evaluations:  
A Few Key Issues

# New Evaluation Process: Reminders and Q&A

# Reminders: New Process for Fall 2018

- Ratings will be based on subgroup consensus
  - *For Fall 2018, four subgroups formed*
  - *Between 7 and 13 measures assigned to each subgroup*
  - *Measure assignments made based on topic area, measure type, previous evaluations (if any), need for recusal, expertise, availability for scheduled calls, preference for measures*
- Panel members will complete preliminary analysis (PA)
- Staff will compile PA results and develop initial consent calendar
- Each subgroup will attend 1-2 calls to discuss measures
  - *Substantial differences in PAs definitely discussed on calls*
  - *Other measures can be tagged for discussion as well*

# Evaluation Call Schedule

- Subgroup #1
  - *Tuesday, October 9, 2-4pm ET*
  - *Thursday, October 11, 2-4pm ET [will be re-scheduled]*
- Subgroup #2
  - *Thursday, October 11, 12-2pm ET*
  - *Wednesday, October 17, 12-2pm ET*
- Subgroup #3
  - *Friday, October 12, 2-4pm ET*
  - *Thursday, October 18, 2-4pm ET*
- Subgroup #4
  - *Monday, October 15, 2-4pm ET*
  - *Tuesday, October 16, 2-4pm ET*



# Reminders: Available Resources

- 2017 Criteria and Guidance Document (update coming soon)
- Standing Committee Guidebook (section 7)
- “Key Points” guidance document
- Methods Panel staff (for questions about the criteria)
- Potentially, clarification from developers
  - *Has to be requested very early on*
  - *NQF staff are the go-betweens*
  - *Will give developers 48 hours to respond to questions/make changes to their forms*

# Reminders: Differences in Testing Requirements by Measure Type

- Composite measures
  - *Require reliability testing of the composite measure score*
    - » Can also show reliability testing of the components, but this is not sufficient to pass the criterion
  - *As noted earlier, there is also an extra criterion*
    - » How this is addressed by the developer will depend on the type of composite
- Instrument-based measures
  - *For reliability and validity, require testing at both the data element level (i.e., of the instrument) AND the measure score level (i.e., testing of the actual performance measure)*
- eMeasures (eCQMs)
  - *Typically, mainly concerned with validity*
  - *Must test with >1 EHR system*

# Reminders: A Few Things to Check

- Measures should be tested as specified
  - *Level of analysis (if multiple LoAs specified, each should be tested separately)*
  - *Data source (separate testing likely needed, but maybe not always)*
  - *Care setting (separate testing preferred, but at minimum, testing dataset should include data from all specified settings)*
  - *It is possible for you to “pass” part of the measure*
- Often there are several performance measures included under one NQF number
  - *Each must be evaluated separately; some might pass and others not pass*
- Look for/point out any inconsistencies in submissions
- Summary of previous Standing Committee evaluation provided as an FYI
- Any previous MP PAs also provided

# Current Measure Evaluations: A Few Key Issues

# Considering Social Risk Factors

- 2013 Expert Panel provided guidance to NQF on adjusting performance measure scores based on social risk
- Two-year “SDS Trial” (2015-2017) allowed developers to submit measures adjusted for social risk factors
- New social risk trial (2017-2021) with funding from CMS
  - *Measure developers are required to provide a **conceptual rationale** for how a social risk factor affects an outcome of interest*
  - *If a conceptual relationship exists, developers should conduct **empirical analyses** to examine the relationship between the social risk factor and the outcome of interest*
    - » Often difficulty obtaining data identified in the literature
      - *For example, poverty status shown to be associated in the literature, but income data not available*
  - *NOTE: For the purposes of the trial, we are NOT considering age and sex to be social risk factors*

# Other Key Issues for Fall Cycle Evaluations

- Composite measures (Sam Simon)
  - *These are not measures based on multi-item scales*
    - » Either individual measures aggregated to yield a single score OR all-or-none construction
  - *Additional analysis to support composite construction*
- Instrument-based measures (Dave Cella)
  - *Use of item banks*
  - *How individual item calibrations allow us to consider standard metrics*
- Cost measures (materials from Jack Needleman)
  - *Additional considerations under validity (e.g., attribution, the costing approach, carve outs, or truncation (approach to outliers))*
  - *Possibly, these have a methodological component and a subjective consensus component that should be left to the Committee*

# Member and Public Comment

# Next Steps

- Monthly 1-hour calls
  - *Every 2nd Thursday of the month*
  - *Next call: November 8, 3pm ET*
- Subgroup evaluation meetings
- Contact information: [methodspanel@qualityforum.org](mailto:methodspanel@qualityforum.org)



# Adjourn