NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM

Scientific Methods Panel Monthly Call Meeting

NQF Methods Panel Team

November 8, 2018

Welcome, Roll Call, and Review of Meeting Objectives

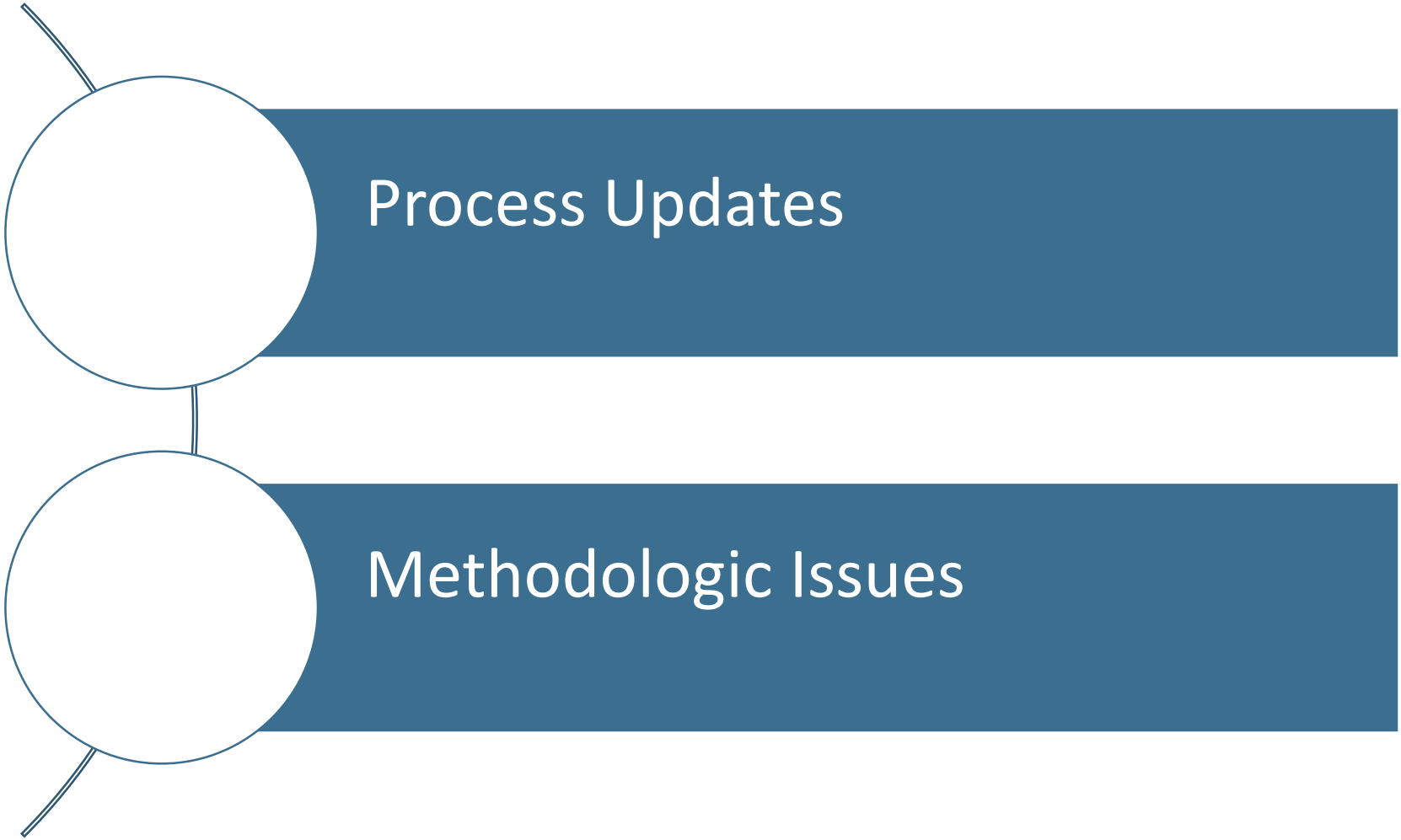
Scientific Methods Panel Members

- 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
- 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



Process Updates

Status Update for Fall 2018 Evaluated Measures

Metrics	Fall 2018
Total number of complex measures submitted for evaluation by the Scientific Methods Panel (SMP)	39 (21 new)
Measures not discussed on calls	*16* (41%)
Measures discussed on calls	*23* (59%)
Total number of complex measures that received “low” or “insufficient” ratings from the SMP (i.e., did not go to SC)	10 (26%)
Total number of complex measures that received “high” or “moderate” ratings from the SMP (i.e., will go to SC)	25 (64%)
Total number of complex measures that received “consensus not reached” ratings from the SMP (i.e., will go to SC)	4 (10%)

Next Steps for Fall 2018 Evaluation Cycle

- Staff currently developing evaluation summaries
  - *Will be provided to developers or staff/standing committees*
  - *Can provide to Panel members if desired*
- Committee meetings scheduled for January-February
- Final endorsement decisions expected in June

Other News

- White papers
  - *Perspectives paper: 1st draft has been circulated for comments from core writing group*
  - *Risk-adjustment paper: 3rd draft in progress*

- New NQF Methods Panel Team members
  - *Michael Abrams, MPH, PhD*
  - *Sam Stolpe, PharmD, MPH*

Reflections on the Fall Cycle Evaluations

What worked?
What didn't work?
What could work better next time?

Methodologic Issues

Advice to Measure Developers to Improve Submissions (the low-hanging fruit)

- Specifications
- Reliability testing
  - *Data element testing*
  - *Score-level testing*
- Validity
  - *Testing*
    - » Data element
    - » Score-level
  - *Assessing threats to validity (includes exclusions analysis, risk adjustment, meaningful differences, comparable results, missing data)*

Score-Level Testing Results

- Often see a summary statistic for signal-to-noise analysis
- Do we want to suggest providing more? An example:

Sample size	Mean	SD	Min	10th %ile	25th %ile	50th %ile	75th %ile	90th %ile	Max
10+									
20+									
50+									
100+									
200+									

- Is this possible regardless of method?

Testing According to Specifications

- Often testing (particularly reliability testing at the score level) is limited to providers with a certain minimum sample size, even if the measure isn't specified with a minimum threshold
  - *Example: Signal-to-noise analysis conducted for the 572 providers (of the 632 in the original sample) who had at least 25 patients eligible for the measure*
- NQF testing requires that testing be done for measures as specified
- Do you agree this doesn't meet NQF's testing requirements?
- Would you be willing to rate as INSUFFICIENT?

Guidance on Describing Methods Used

- Testing attachment item **2a2.2**
  - ***For each level checked above, describe the method of reliability testing and what it tests*** *(describe the steps—do not just name a method; what type of error does it test; what statistical analysis was used)*
- HOWEVER, there is substantial variability in how much detail is provided
- Any suggestions for additional guidance on what you'd like to know?

Guidance on Describing Score-Level Validation Analysis

- Typically, a correlation analysis between the measure being evaluated and one or more other measures
  - *NOTE: It doesn't have to be a correlation analysis!*

- Sometimes text just says "we correlated this with that"; results presented, often with very little interpretation

Guidance on Describing Score-Level Validation Analysis

- Staff guidance:
  - *Provide narrative describing the hypothesized relationships*
  - *Why you think comparing these measures would validate the measures*
  - *Expected direction of the association*
  - *Expected strength of the association*
  - *Specific statistical tests used*
  - *Results*
  - *Interpretation of those results (including how they related to hypothesis and whether they have helped to validate the measure)*
- Is this reasonable? What if this level of detail not provided?

Where Do Power Calculations Come In?

- Where might we expect need for power calculations?
- Should guidance be something along the lines of “if you used them, tell us about it”?
- Or should we be more directive? (e.g., if you didn’t use them, tell us why not)
- Or, should we stay silent?

Member and Public Comment

Next Steps

- Monthly 1-hour calls
  - *Every 2nd Thursday of the month*
  - *Next call: December 13, 3 pm ET*
- Contact information: methodspanel@qualityforum.org

Adjourn