



TO: NQF Executive Committee
FR: Ann Hammersmith and Helen Burstin
RE: Reconsideration of Appeal for the Standardized Readmission Ratio (SRR) for Dialysis Facilities
DA: March 17, 2015

Background:

On March 5, the NQF Executive Committee met to discuss an appeal received on Measure #2496 Standardized Readmission Ratio (SRR) for dialysis facilities. During the discussion, concerns were raised about the lack of consensus on the measure throughout the endorsement process. The Executive Committee voted 4 in favor of upholding endorsement of the measure and 3 against continued endorsement, with 1 abstention. Endorsement for Measure #2496 was not upheld as this would have required five votes, a majority of those present on the call.

Since the Executive Committee call, CMS has requested a full Board review. In lieu of that, NQF's Board Chair has called a special meeting of the Executive Committee to discuss the possibility of engaging in further consensus building as described below. Under this scenario, the Executive Committee would rescind its vote on the appeal pending the suggested consensus activities.

A public discussion and rehash of the same issues raised on the prior call at the full Board meeting without further information does not seem prudent. We propose that NQF staff engage in additional "hands on" consensus building prior to reconsideration by the Executive Committee. CMS has accepted this proposal and agreed to participate in the consensus building efforts. Staff proposes individual calls with CMS and the appellant with the goal of identification of areas of critical concerns among the two groups, identification of areas where there may be room for compromise and consideration of options for an agreeable path forward. NQF would then proceed to a joint call or in-person meeting between CMS and the appellants. Following consensus building, we will return to the Executive Committee for a revote on the appeal.