



NATIONAL
QUALITY FORUM

All-Cause Admissions and Readmissions Spring 2018 Cycle

CSAC Review and Endorsement

October 23-24, 2018

Readmissions

- Reducing avoidable hospital admissions and readmissions has been a focus of healthcare quality improvement for many years.
- High rates of readmissions are not only costly to the healthcare system, but they also can indicate low-quality care during a prior hospital stay or poor care coordination. An unnecessary hospitalization causes patients stress and can expose them to additional medical risk.
- Certain strategies can succeed in reducing avoidable admissions and readmissions rates, such as improved communication of patient discharge instructions, coordination with post-acute care providers and primary care physicians, and reducing complications such as hospital-acquired conditions.
- NQF currently has 49 endorsed all-cause and condition-specific admissions and readmissions measures addressing numerous settings.

Readmissions

One Measure Submitted, Evaluated, and Recommended for Endorsement

- **1789** Hospital-Wide All-Cause Unplanned Readmission Measure (HWR)
 - *Maintenance measure submitted for new level of analysis: ACO*
 - *Reviewed by Scientific Methods Panel*

Measure Evaluation Summary

| | Maintenance Measures | New Measures | TOTAL Measures |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------|----------------|
| Submitted | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Measures Recommended | 1 | - | 1 |
| Measures Not Recommended | 0 | - | 0 |
| Measures Withdrawn from Consideration | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Overarching Issues

- Impact of declining readmissions rates
- Using measurement to promote shared accountability
- Role of social risk for ACOs

Public and NQF Member Comments Received

- 6 comments from 5 organizations and one individual patient advocate
- Themes included:
 - *Concerns around risk-adjustment approach (lack of inclusion of social risk factors)*
 - *Potential unintended consequences in expanding to ACOs (disincentives for ACOs to enroll low-income or underserved beneficiaries)*
 - *Use of the measure in MIPS (not endorsed at the clinician level)*

Timeline and Next Steps

| Process Step | Timeline |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Appeals Period | October 26, 2018-November 26, 2018 |
| Adjudication of Appeals | November 27, 2018-December 21, 2018 |
| Final Report | Early February 2019 |

Questions?

Project webpage: [http://www.qualityforum.org/All-Cause Admissions and Readmissions 2017.aspx](http://www.qualityforum.org/All-Cause_Admissions_and_Readmissions_2017.aspx)

Project email address: readmissions@qualityforum.org