



All-Cause Admissions & Readmissions Renal Technical Expert Panel (TEP) Orientation Call

The National Quality Forum (NQF) convened a public web meeting for All-Cause Admissions & Readmissions Renal Technical Expert Panel (TEP) Orientation Call on April 16, 2020.

Welcome, Introductions, and Review of Web Meeting Objectives

Matthew Pickering, NQF Senior Director, began by welcoming participants to the web meeting. Funmilayo Idami, Project Analyst, conducted a roll call of the Renal TEP members. Dr. Pickering provided opening remarks and reviewed the following meeting objectives:

- Describe an Overview of the All-Cause Admissions & Readmissions Portfolio
- Discuss the Role of the Renal Technical Expert Panel
- Describe the TEP Measure Input Form Overview

All-Cause Admissions & Readmissions Portfolio Overview

Matthew Pickering informed TEP members that the All-Cause Admissions & Readmissions Standing Committee evaluates measures related to all-cause admissions/readmissions and condition-specific admissions/readmissions that can be used for accountability and public reporting for all populations and in all settings of care. The current portfolio of All-Cause Admissions & Readmissions measures includes 51 NQF-endorsed measures: 25 all-cause measures and 26 condition-specific measures.

Role of the Technical Expert Panel

Dr. Pickering explained that the TEP is being convened to provide clinically-relevant input to the All-Cause Admissions & Readmissions Standing Committee on the four renal-focused measures submitted for Spring 2020 Cycle endorsement consideration:

- NQF 2496 -Standardized Readmission Ratio (SRR) for dialysis facilities (maintenance)
- NQF 1463 -Standardized Hospitalization Ratio for Dialysis Facilities (maintenance)
- NQF 3565 -Standardized Emergency Department Encounter Ratio (SEDR) for Dialysis Facilities (new)
- NQF 3566 -Standardized Ratio of Emergency Department Encounters Occurring Within 30 Days of Hospital Discharge (ED30) for Dialysis Facilities (new)

The TEP members will be required to review the measure specifications for each of the four renal measures to provide input on clinical elements of each measure (i.e., inclusion/exclusion criteria, validity testing, risk adjustment). After each member has documented their review in the provided TEP Input Forms, the TEP will convene again on April 30th, 2020 to discuss each of their analysis of each measure. NQF staff will summarize the feedback and provide it to the Standing Committee for endorsement consideration.

One TEP member asked how measures were assigned to Standing Committees. Dr. Pickering explained that as measures are submitted to NQF, NQF staff review them to ensure that they are being submitted to the appropriate Standing Committee based on several factors, including the clinical focus of the measure and also the Standing Committee's expertise and experience in evaluating the measure methodology.

Technical Expert Panel Input Forms Overview

Dr. Pickering informed the TEP that they would be focusing on elements of the Importance to Measure and Report and Validity criteria. He pointed out that the goal was to focus on aspects with greatest potential to drive improvement and make valid conclusions about quality. Dr. Pickering discussed the TEP Input Form, which asked questions related to the evidence to support the measure, validity testing, justification of exclusions, and risk adjustment.

Public Comment

Oroma Igwe, NQF Project Manager, opened the web meeting to allow for public comment. No public comments were offered.

Next Steps

Ms. Igwe concluded the meeting by requesting that the TEP complete and submit the TEP Input Forms. She mentioned that the TEP will meet on April 30, 2020, 11:30am-1:30 pm ET to discuss their clinical evaluation of the four renal measures. NQF staff will incorporate TEP feedback on the measures and share with the All-Cause Admissions & Readmission Standing Committee in preparation for the Standing Committee's measure evaluation web meeting on June 22, 2020, 9:00am-5:00 pm ET.