



Attribution: Principles and Approaches 2015-2016

BACKGROUND

As the U.S. healthcare system increasingly shifts to a performance-based payment system, the desire to identify accountable entities that can be held responsible for patients' care has become an important consideration. The identification of accountable entities is used by payers, providers, and other measure users to determine how payment is distributed and ultimately who is responsible for improving care delivery, patient outcomes, and reducing cost. As the financial stakes for measurement have grown, policy debates over physician payment have intensified, and care is increasingly provided within structures of shared accountability, guidance is needed regarding the assignment of attribution of patients and care episodes. Attribution can be defined as the methodology used to assign patients, and their quality outcomes, to organizations or providers.

National Quality Forum (NQF) will convene a multistakeholder Committee and commissioned author to explore the issue of attribution in detail through an environmental scan of the current approaches to attribution, an analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of these approaches, develop guiding principles for application, and make recommendations to guide the selection and implementation of various models of attribution.

COMMITTEE CHARGE

NQF will convene a multistakeholder Committee charged with providing guidance, and input to accomplish the project objectives:

- Review an environmental scan to describe and synthesize the evidence on current attribution models in use across various care delivery models (i.e., fee for service, managed care, Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs), shared savings, etc.)
- Identify the subset of measures that are affected by attribution problems and how these problems affect healthcare performance measures focused on quality and cost
- Establish key guiding principles for attributing responsibility
- Describe potential theoretical frameworks and models that could be used to validly and reliably attribute performance measurement results to one or more providers under different delivery models
- Explore the extent to which these models would need to be modified for use under different health care delivery systems and lay out strengths and weaknesses of the models
- Develop models of approaches to implementing attribution to enable testing on CMS data

- Develop recommendations for application of these attribution models in various delivery systems and performance measurement programs and guidance for measure evaluation for endorsement and selection processes.

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

The Committee will include no more than 25 individuals seated for one year.

Participation on the Committee requires a significant time commitment. To apply, Committee members should be available to participate in all currently scheduled calls/meetings. Over the course of the Committee member's term, additional calls may be scheduled or calls may be rescheduled based on project needs; new dates will be set based on the availability of the majority of the Committee.

Committee participation includes:

- Participation in the Committee Orientation Web Meeting
- Participation in two Committee In-Person Meetings, and
- Participation at four Committee Web Meetings in order to meet the goals and objectives of the project

Table of scheduled meeting dates

Meeting	Date/Time
Committee Orientation Meeting (1 hour)	February 25, 2016 at 1:00PM-3:00PM ET
Committee Web Meeting #2 (2 hours)	March 29, 2016 at 12:00PM-2:00PM ET
Committee In-Person Meeting #1 (2 days)	June 14 – 15, 2016
Committee Web Meeting #3 (2 hours)	June 21, 2016 at 1:00PM-3:00PM ET
Committee In-Person Meeting #2 (2 days)	August 30 – 31, 2016
Committee Web Meeting #4 (2 hours)	September 9, 2016 at 2:00PM-4:00PM ET
Committee Web Meeting #5 (2 hours)	November 15, 2016 at 12:00PM-2:00PM ET

PREFERRED EXPERTISE & COMPOSITION

Committee members are selected to ensure representation from a variety of stakeholders, including consumers, purchasers, providers, health professionals, plans, suppliers, community and public health, and healthcare quality experts. Because NQF attempts to represent a diversity of stakeholder perspectives on committees, a limited number of individuals from each of these stakeholder groups can be seated onto a committee.

NQF is seeking nominees with relevant expertise in performance measure development,

population health, health services research, healthcare policy, healthcare delivery models, health economics, measurement methodologies, and across stakeholder perspectives including providers from various settings (i.e., hospitals, clinics), front-line clinicians, health plans, purchasers, and consumers.

Please review the NQF [Conflict of Interest Policy](#) to learn about how NQF identifies potential conflict of interest. All potential Committee members must disclose any current and past activities prior to and during the nomination process in order to be considered.

CONSIDERATION & SUBSTITUTION

Priority will be given to nominations from NQF Members when nominee expertise is comparable. Please note that nominations are to an individual, not an organization, so “substitutions” of other individuals is not permitted. Committee members are encouraged to engage colleagues and solicit input from colleagues throughout the process.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Nominations are sought for individual subject matter experts. Self-nominations are welcome. Third-party nominations must indicate that the individual has been contacted and is willing to serve.

To nominate an individual to the Committee, please **submit** the following information:

- A completed [online nomination form](#), including:
 - a brief statement of interest
 - a brief description of nominee expertise highlighting experience relevant to the committee
 - a short biography (maximum 100 words), highlighting experience/knowledge relevant to the expertise described above
 - curriculum vitae or list of relevant experience (e.g., publications) *up to 20 pages*
- A completed disclosure of interest form. This will be requested upon your submission of the nominations form for Committees actively seeking nominees.
- Confirmation of availability to participate in currently scheduled calls and meeting dates. Committees or projects actively seeking nominees will solicit this information upon submission of the online nomination form.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION

All nominations *MUST* be submitted by **6:00 pm ET on Friday, January 8, 2016**.

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions, please contact Kim Ibarra or Erin O’Rourke at 202-783-1300 or attribution@qualityforum.org. Thank you for your interest.