



### Behavioral Health and Substance Use Standing Committee – Measure Evaluation Post-Comment Web Meeting

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The National Quality Forum (NQF) convened the Behavioral Health and Substance Use (BHSU) Standing Committee for a [web meeting](#) on May 24, 2021, to evaluate one fall 2020 measure that did not reach consensus and to review public comments.

#### Welcome, Introductions, and Review of Meeting Objectives

Poonam Bal, NQF director, welcomed the Standing Committee and participants to the web meeting and reviewed the meeting objectives. Tamara Funk, NQF manager, took attendance. Seventeen Standing Committee members were present for the entirety of the discussion, allowing the Standing Committee to re-vote.

#### Overview of Post-Comment Evaluation Process

Ms. Bal provided an overview of the process for discussing and re-voting on the criterion that did not reach consensus. Ms. Bal clarified for the Committee that during the post-comment measure review, the criterion under consideration must exceed 60 percent of Standing Committee votes of “pass”; otherwise, it fails.

#### Measure Evaluation

During the meeting, the BHSU Standing Committee voted on one measure for which consensus was not reached for overall suitability for endorsement from the fall 2020 evaluation cycle. A summary of the Committee’s deliberations is included below.

**Rating Scale:** H – High; M – Medium; L – Low; I – Insufficient; NA – Not Applicable

#### #3205 Medication Continuation Following Inpatient Psychiatric Discharge

##### *Measure Steward/Developer Representatives at the Meeting*

Jason Smoot, Mathematica

##### *Standing Committee Votes: Measure Evaluation Meetings (February 8, 11, & 22, 2021)*

- Evidence: H-1; M-16; L-1; I-0 (Pass – 17/18, 94.4 percent)
- Performance Gap: H-5; M-13; L-0; I-0 (Pass – 18/18, 100 percent)
- Reliability: H-0; M-19; L-0; I-0 (Pass – 19/19, 100 percent)
- Validity: H-1; M-11; L-4; I-3 (Pass – 12/19, 63.2 percent)
- Feasibility: H-2; M-13; L-4; I-0 (Pass – 15/19, 78.9 percent)
- Use: Pass-20; No Pass-0 (Pass – 20/20, 100 percent)
- Usability: H-1; M-15; L-2; I-0 (Pass – 16/18, 88.9 percent)
- Suitability for Endorsement: Yes-11; No-8 (CNR – 11/19, 57.9 percent)

##### *Standing Committee Votes: Post-Comment Meeting (May 24, 2021)*

- Suitability for Endorsement: Yes – 5; No – 12

### *Standing Committee Recommendation for Endorsement: No*

This maintenance measure did not pass the revote on suitability for endorsement and will not be recommended for continued endorsement. During the initial measure evaluation meetings, the Standing Committee noted that the measure involves both hospitals and outpatient providers, with the accountability falling on the facility that may not have full control over this aspect of care. This was expressed to be especially challenging for mental health patients. During the post-comment meeting, the Standing Committee expressed continued concerns with this issue, specifically regarding the long-acting injectable antipsychotics (LAIs) portion of the measure. The Standing Committee restated concerns about the quantity of LAIs administered outside of the hospital and who would be held accountable for this matter since there is no shared accountability between the hospital and outpatient setting. Additionally, the Standing Committee noted that hospitals have limited access to information about what happens after the patient is discharged, which limits their ability to do continuous quality improvement on this measure. The Standing Committee was also concerned that the data source for this measure—claims data—does not capture all data of relevance. The measure developer confirmed the possibility that the measure would not capture some LAIs that were administered inpatient.

## **Review and Discussion of Public Comment and General Discussion**

The [draft report](#) for this measure cycle was posted on the project webpage for public and NQF member comment on March 25, 2021, for 30 days. The commenting period closed on April 23, 2021. Poonam Bal, NQF director, presented to the Standing Committee a summary of the comments received during the post-evaluation public and member commenting period. NQF received four comments from three member organizations and individuals who supported the Standing Committee's decision to recommend endorsement for three of the four measures under review and agreed with the Standing Committee's concerns about the measure that did not reach consensus: #3205.

### **Measure-Specific Comments**

#### **#3205 Medication Continuation Following Inpatient Psychiatric Discharge**

Two commenters stated that ensuring that medication adherence is maintained during transitions of care is an important process to measure; however, they agreed with the Standing Committee's concerns regarding the threats to the measure's validity and support not continuing endorsement at this time.

#### **Committee Response**

The Committee wishes to thank the commenters for their thoughtful review of these measures. The Committee acknowledged the comments at the start of the discussion of #3205 and agreed that endorsement should not be continued at this time.

### **Next Steps**

The Standing Committee's recommendations to remove endorsement from #3205 *Medication Continuation Following Inpatient Psychiatric Discharge*, maintain endorsement for #0576 *Follow-Up After Hospitalization for Mental Illness (FUH)*, and endorse #3589 *Prescription or Administration of Pharmacotherapy to Treat Opioid Use Disorder (OUD)* and #3590 *Continuity of Care After Receiving Hospital or Residential Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment* will be shared with the Consensus Standards Approval Committee (CSAC) for endorsement review. The CSAC meeting is planned for June 29-30, 2021.