



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

The National Quality Forum (NQF) convened the Behavioral Health and Substance Use (BHSU) Standing Committee for a web meeting on September 21, 2020 to evaluate two spring 2020 measures that did not reach consensus and to review public comments.

Welcome, Introductions, and Review of Meeting Objectives

NQF welcomed the Standing Committee and participants to the web meeting. NQF staff reviewed the meeting objectives. 18 committee members were present for the entirety of the discussion, allowing the committee to revote.

Overview of Post-Comment Evaluation Process

NQF staff provided an overview of the process for discussing and revoting on the criterion that did not reach consensus. NQF clarified for the Committee that during the post-comment measure review, the criterion under consideration must exceed 60% Committee votes of “pass”; otherwise, it fails.

Measure Evaluation

During the meeting, the BHSU Standing Committee voted on two criteria where consensus was not reached from the spring 2020 evaluation cycle. A summary of the Committee deliberations is included below.

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

#2803 Tobacco Use and Help with Quitting Among Adolescents

Measure Steward/Developer Representatives at the Meeting

Mary Barton, National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA)

Bob Rehm, NCQA

Brittany Wade, NCQA

Standing Committee Votes

- Evidence: H-0; M-4; L-3; I-9
- Exception to Evidence: Insufficient Evidence with Exception-7; No Exception-10

Standing Committee Recommendation for Endorsement: N/A

This measure did not pass the revote on evidence, a must-pass criterion, and the measure will not be recommended for continued endorsement. In the discussion of evidence, the NQF staff initially reviewed the previous Committee deliberations and concerns related to the strength of the evidence from the United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) review of adolescent smoking cessation and prevention interventions. Staff also reviewed the NQF evidence algorithm in light of concerns raised that the recommendations from guidelines related to the measure focus were in one instance lacking more substantial evidence than expert opinion. Staff noted that there is still a pathway to endorsement through an exception to evidence and reviewed the NQF evidence criteria and voting process. Some Committee members expressed concerns that the expert opinion recommendation from the USPSTF for cessation interventions didn't have enough evidence to warrant the added burden for clinicians. Others noted that the harms associated with the interventions were low and that the burden to clinicians was not especially high.

#3572: Follow-Up After Psychiatric Hospitalization (FAPH)

Measure Steward/Developer Representatives at the Meeting

Kirsten Barrett, Mathematica
Michelle Dardis, Mathematica
Bob Dickerson, Mathematica
Jason Smoot, Mathematica

Standing Committee Votes

- Validity: H-1; M-5; L-11; I-0

Standing Committee Recommendation for Endorsement: N/A

This measure did not pass the revote on validity, a must-pass criterion, and the measure will not be endorsed. NQF staff reviewed the Committee's previous discussion on validity for NQF #3572, noting the concern raised during the initial measure evaluation meeting that 35% of the measure sample was excluded due to admission or transfer. It was noted that the Committee had a significant concern related to the validity of the measure where the population that could have potentially had a poor outcome as a result of not receiving follow-up was excluded from the measure. It was also noted that a comparable NQF-endorsed NCQA follow-up measure also has the same exclusion criteria, suggesting this measure is appropriately harmonized with other follow-up measures. The measure developer noted that of the 35% of exclusions due to readmission or transfer, 19% were discharged to home and then readmitted, and 16% were transferred to another facility. The Committee reaffirmed a strong concern associated with this particular exclusion.

Related to the comment from Intermountain Healthcare, one Committee member noted that there may be more burden to add more conditions such as dementia, but it is worth ensuring that there is adequate treatment and follow-up.

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 July 27, 2020 for 30 days. The commenting period closed on August 25, 2020. Sam Stolpe, NQF senior director, presented to the Committee a summary of the most salient comments received during the post-evaluation public and member comment period. NQF received three comments from three member organizations that were supportive of these types of measures and how they were captured in the report.

Measure-Specific Comments

#3572 Follow-Up After Psychiatric Hospitalization (FAPH)

Intermountain Healthcare notes that the expansion to include additional diagnosis like dementia is likely to negatively impact the follow-up after hospitalization (FUH) focus from mental health and substance use diagnosis that can positively be impacted by both inpatient and outpatient behavioral health follow-up. Additionally, dementia is not likely to be impacted by the same sort of treatment and is likely to overwhelm limited resources. This expansion would not be beneficial for this population who needs targeted intervention.

Committee Response

The Committee wishes to thank the commenters for your thoughtful review of these measures. The Committee considered your comment but had other reservations related to the measure's validity.

Next Steps

Measures #2803 and #3572 will progress to Consensus Standards Approval Committee (CSAC) review in November, along with measure #0108, which the Committee recommended for endorsement during the spring 2020 measure evaluation meetings. The CSAC meeting is planned for November 17-18, 2020.