



TO: NQF Members  
FR: NQF Staff  
RE: Voting Draft Report: NQF-Endorsed Measures for Eye Care, Ear, Nose and Throat (EENT)  
DA: June 22, 2017

## Background

The EENT Standing Committee's spring 2017 off-cycle activity included evaluating two newly-submitted measures against NQF's standard evaluation criteria. The Committee recommended one measure for endorsement:

- 2811: Acute Otitis Media – Appropriate First-Line Antibiotics

The Committee did not recommend the following measure:

- 2640: Otitis Media with Effusion - Antibiotics Avoidance

## Comments Received

NQF solicits comments on measures undergoing review in various ways and at various times throughout the evaluation process. First, NQF solicits comments on endorsed measures on an ongoing basis through the Quality Positioning System (QPS). Second, NQF solicits member and public comments prior to the evaluation of the measures via an online tool located on the project webpage. Third, NQF opens a 30-day comment period to both members and the public after measures have been evaluated by the full Committee and once a report of the proceedings has been drafted.

NQF received only pre-evaluation comments. A [complete table](#) of pre-evaluation comments is posted to the [project page](#) on the NQF website, along with the [measure submission forms](#) and [additional testing information provided after the submission deadline](#). NQF did not receive any additional comments during the post-evaluation commenting period.

The Committee reviewed all comments received and considered the pre-meeting comments prior to making an endorsement recommendation. NQF revised the draft report based on Committee discussions during the June 13, 2017 post-comment call; these are identified as redlined changes. (Note: Typographical errors and grammatical changes have not been redlined, to assist in reading.)

## Committee Re-Consideration and Re-Vote on Measure #2640

### **#2640: Otitis Media with Effusion - Antibiotics Avoidance**

During the March 14, 2017 evaluation of this measure, the Standing Committee voted against endorsement, primarily due to concerns with the difficulty of diagnosing otitis media with effusion and the potential for providers to miscode OME as AOM. After a lengthy discussion, the Committee agreed that the measure did not pass the reliability subcriterion.

**Please note that voting concludes on July 7, 2017 at 6:00 pm ET – no exceptions.**

In considering the discussion, NQF staff determined that the committee's discussion regarding the ability to diagnosis OME is more appropriate within the context of validity rather than reliability. During the June 13, 2017 post comment call, NQF asked the Committee to re-vote on reliability, basing its rating on clarity of specifications and results of reliability testing, and to consider the question of diagnosis accuracy and the data provided by the developer in a discussion on validity. The Committee voted to pass the measure on the Reliability sub-criterion. However, the Committee failed the measure on the Validity sub-criterion, again citing concerns about accuracy of diagnosis and potential for providers to miscode OME as AOM.

## NQF Member Voting

Information for electronic voting has been sent to NQF Member organization primary contacts. Accompanying comments must be submitted via the online voting tool.

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