



April 19, 2018

To: Cardiovascular Standing Committee
From: NQF staff
Re: Post-comment web meeting to discuss public comments received and NQF member expression of support

Purpose of the Call

The Cardiovascular Standing Committee will meet via conference call on April 19, 2018 from 2:00 pm-4:00 pm ET. The purpose of this call is to:

- Review and discuss comments received during the post-evaluation public and member comment period;
- Provide input on proposed responses to the post-evaluation comments;
- Review and discuss NQF members' expression of support for the measures under consideration; and
- Determine whether reconsideration of any measures or other courses of action are warranted.

Standing Committee Actions

1. Review this briefing memo and [draft report](#).
2. Review and consider the full text of all comments received and the proposed responses to the post-evaluation comments (see comment table and additional documents included with the call materials).
3. Review the NQF members' expression of support of the submitted measures.
4. Be prepared to provide feedback and input on proposed post-evaluation comment responses.

Conference Call Information

Please use the following information to access the conference call line and webinar:

NQF/Co-Chair dial-in #: 844-298-1755

Committee dial-in #: 844-572-3195

Web Link: <http://nqf.commpartners.com/se/Rd/Mt.aspx?569826>

Registration Link: <http://nqf.commpartners.com/se/Rd/Rg.aspx?569826>

Background

In 2017 fall cycle of this project, the 25-member [Cardiovascular Standing Committee](#) met virtually through three measure evaluation web meetings to evaluate a total of five measures against NQF's standard evaluation criteria. The Committee evaluated one newly submitted measure and four measures undergoing maintenance review against NQF's standard evaluation

criteria. Four measures were recommended for endorsement, and consensus was not reached on one measure.

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 during a 16-week comment period via an online tool on the project webpage.

Pre-evaluation Comments

NQF solicits comments prior to the evaluation of the measures via an online tool on the project webpage. For this evaluation cycle, the pre-evaluation comment period was open from December 15, 2017 to January 18, 2018 for the measures under review. No comments were received.

Post-evaluation Comments

The draft report was posted on the project webpage for public and NQF member comment on March 8 for 30 calendar days. During this commenting period, NQF received 11 comments from three member organizations:

Member Council	# of Member Organizations Who Commented
Consumer	0
Health Plan	0
Health Professional	1
Provider Organization	1
Public/Community Health Agency	0
Purchaser	0
QMRI	1
Supplier/Industry	0

We have included all comments that we received (both pre- and post-evaluation) in the comment table (Excel spreadsheet) posted to the Committee SharePoint site. This comment table contains the commenter's name, comment, associated measure, topic (if applicable), and—for the post-evaluation comments—draft responses (including measure steward/developer responses) for the Committee's consideration. Please review this table before the meeting and consider the individual comments received and the proposed responses to each.

Although all comments are subject to discussion, the intent is not to discuss each individual comment on the April 19 post-comment call. Instead, we will spend the majority of the time considering the measure-specific comments discussed below. Where possible, NQF staff has proposed draft responses for the Committee to consider.

Comments and Their Deposition

Measure-Specific Comments

3309 Risk-Standardized Survival Rate (RSSR) for In-Hospital Cardiac Arrest

NQF received 10 post-evaluation comments in support of recommending the measure for endorsement. One commenter suggested that the developer provide empirical validity testing at the time of maintenance, and another suggested that the Scientific Methods Panel's evaluation be discussed prior to Committee vote.

NQF Response

Thank you for your comment. Per the Measure Evaluation Criteria, all measures undergoing maintenance review are expected to provide empirical validity testing, and if this is not possible, justification is required; face validity is only accepted for new measures.

The Scientific Methods Panel evaluates the Scientific Acceptability criterion of complex measures as input for the Committee's decision. The Committee members can "overrule" any preliminary recommendations and ratings provided by the Scientific Methods Panel (or NQF staff). Additionally, NQF sends the preliminary analysis to the standing committees prior to the evaluation meetings.

Proposed Committee Response

Thank you for your comment. The Committee will review these comments during their deliberations on the Post-Comment Call scheduled on April 19, 2018 to re-vote on the reliability criterion and this measure's overall suitability for endorsement. The Committee noted the Scientific Methods Panel's evaluation and rating; however, a Committee member highlighted some discrepancies in the testing document that the Methods Panel did not address, and voted accordingly.

Action Item

The Committee must re-vote on the reliability and overall suitability for endorsement. Reliability is a must-pass criterion. Measure #3309 must receive >60 percent of votes (includes high and moderate) for the reliability subcriterion for the measure to be recommended for endorsement by the Committee. A measure that does not receive >60 percent of votes will not move forward to NQF member vote or the Consensus Standards Approval Committee (CSAC).

0642 Cardiac Rehabilitation Patient Referral from an Inpatient Setting

NQF received one post-evaluation comment supporting the Committee's recommendation to endorse the measure.

Proposed Committee Response

Thank you for your comment.

NQF Member Expression of Support

Throughout the 16-week continuous public commenting period, NQF members had the opportunity to express their support ('support' or 'do not support') for each measure submitted

for endorsement consideration to inform the Committee's recommendations. Two NQF members provided their expressions of support: See [Appendix A](#).

Appendix A: NQF Member Expression of Support Results

Two NQF members provided their expression of support. Two of five measures under consideration received support from NQF members. Results for each measure are provided below.

3309 Risk-Standardized Survival Rate (RSSR) for In-Hospital Cardiac Arrest (American Heart Association)

Member Council	Support	Do Not Support	Total
Consumer	0	0	0
Health Plan	0	0	0
Health Professional	1	0	1
Provider Organization	1	0	1
Public/Community Health Agency	0	0	0
Purchaser	0	0	0
QMRI	0	0	0
Supplier/Industry	0	0	0
All Councils	2	0	2

0642 Cardiac Rehabilitation Patient Referral from an Inpatient Setting (American College of Cardiology)

Member Council	Support	Do Not Support	Total
Consumer	0	0	0
Health Plan	0	0	0
Health Professional	0	0	0
Provider Organization	1	0	1
Public/Community Health Agency	0	0	0
Purchaser	0	0	0
QMRI	0	0	0
Supplier/Industry	0	0	0
All Councils	1	0	1