

NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM

CONFERENCE CALL FOR THE COMMON FORMATS EXPERT PANEL

June 13, 2011

Panel Members Present: David Classen, MD, MS (Co-Chair); Henry Johnson, MD, MPH (Co-Chair); Debra Bakerjian, PhD, RN, FNP; John Clarke MD; Matthew Grissinger, RPh, MS; Helen Lau, RN, MHRD, BSN; Scott MacLean, MBA; Shannon Phillips, MD, MPH; Nancy Ridley, MS; Heather Sherman, PhD; Liaison Member: William Munier, MD, MBA

NQF Staff Present: Melinda Murphy, RN, MS; Lindsey Tighe, MS

Others Present: Diane Cousins, Peter Goldschmidt, Amy Helwig, John Moquin, Susan Terrillion, Ira Yanowitz (AHRQ); MaryAnn Small (Academic Medical Center PSO)

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Drs. Classen and Johnson welcomed the Expert Panel members and thanked them for their participation on the call. Dr. Classen informed the group that Dr. Helwig would provide the Expert Panel with an update on the AHRQ Annual PSO Meeting.

AHRQ ANNUAL PSO MEETING

Dr. Helwig stated that, as discussed at the PSO Meeting, AHRQ is changing the validation rules for PSO submission to the Privacy Protection Center (PPC) import processor. This will give PSOs more flexibility in compliance with the complete set of Common Formats. The changes will be completed by the first week of August.

COMMON FORMATS UPDATE

Dr. Helwig stated that the Venous Thromboembolism (VTE) Common Format is in the process of being modified. The VTE Common Format will be posted as a standalone module initially, though it will eventually be incorporated into the future releases of the hospital and Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Common Formats, with the hospital set being the primary focus. Once the changes are complete, the AHRQ Patient Safety Workgroup will review the module during the month of July. A commenting period through NQF on the VTE Common Format will likely begin during the month of August.

The next version of Common Formats for Hospitals will be published after the August in-person Common Formats Expert Panel meeting, incorporating any necessary changes to the Common Formats for Hospitals that arise during the Expert Panel in-person meeting, including any related to reconciling the SNF and hospital sets.

The NQF commenting period for the SNF Beta Version of Common Formats will close on Tuesday, July 5.

In response to a question from an Expert Panel member, Dr. Helwig explained the impact of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) on the use of Common Formats. Though ACA does not specifically mention the Common Formats, there are two provisions related to PSOs which indirectly may affect the Common Formats. Firstly, hospitals are required to decrease readmission rates, which may require the hospitals to work with PSOs. Secondly, the requirement for health insurance exchanges will result in hospitals needing to have a Patient Safety Evaluation System (PSES). These two requirements will result in increased hospital involvement with PSOs, and therefore possibly increased use of Common Formats.

Additionally, AHRQ is working with the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) to incorporate Common Formats into meaningful use of Electronic Health Records (EHRs).

UPDATE ON COMMENTS RECEIVED ON SNF COMMON FORMATS

Ms. Murphy noted that at present, there were 118 comments that had been received on the SNF Common Formats. The Expert Panel sub-groups will meet during the month of July by conference call to begin reviewing the comments received. At the in-person meeting in August, the groups will have additional opportunity to review the comments with input from the Expert Panel member who has particular expertise in SNFs prior to the entire Expert Panel making final recommendations on the comments.

NQF MEMBER AND PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments were offered.

NEXT STEPS

The Expert Panel is expected to attend the in-person meeting in Washington, DC on August 1-2, 2011. Sub-group conference calls will be scheduled prior to the in-person meeting.