

NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM

CONFERENCE CALL FOR THE COMMON FORMATS EXPERT PANEL

April 15, 2011

Panel Members Present: David Classen, MD, MS (Co-Chair); Henry Johnson, MD, MPH (Co-Chair); John Clarke MD; Peter Elkin, MD; Paul Gluck, MD; Matthew Grissinger, RPh, MS; Helen Lau, RN, MHROD, 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, Amy Helwig, John Moquin, Ira Yanowitz (AHRQ)

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 Drs. Munier and Helwig would provide the Expert Panel with an update on the Common Formats Skilled Nursing Facilities.

BETA VERSION COMMON FORMATS FOR SKILLED NURSING FACILITIES

Dr. Helwig stated that the beta version of Common Formats for Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNF) has been released and the National Quality Forum (NQF) tool opened for comment, with the commenting period closing on July 5. Thus far 12 comments have been received for the SNF Common Formats; the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) will be messaging interested parties to increase awareness of the SNF Common Formats and seek additional comments from these groups.

Dr. Munier noted that it is unlikely that a high volume of comments will be received for the SNF Common Formats, as they are derivatives of the most recent Hospital Common Formats which have been refined as the result of three earlier commenting periods. In response to a question from an Expert Panel member, Dr. Helwig explained that there has been a marketing campaign and outreach to groups working with skilled nursing facilities in order to seek comments and input from these groups.

Ms. Murphy noted that NQF staff have also reached out to interested parties in the NQF membership as well as the serious reportable event (SRE) implementing states. In response to a question from a Panel member, Ms. Murphy explained that plans are to review SNF Common Formats comments in the same workgroups constituted for the Hospital Common Formats, with the differences being the reduced number of topics that are included in the SNF Common Formats. Ms. Murphy informed the Expert Panel that the member with SNF experience could consult with each of the subgroups during the review of comments received. The comments will be reviewed by the workgroups either during the month of July via conference call or during the first day of the August 1 and 2 in-person meeting of the Common Formats Expert Panel. The strategy used for reviewing comments will depend upon how many comments are received.

An Expert Panel member suggested that input be sought from users of the SNF Common Formats. Dr. Helwig noted that a patient safety organization (PSO) that focuses on SNFs may be attending the AHRQ Annual PSO Meeting in May, and it may be possible to get their input on the SNF Common Formats at that time.

COMMON FORMATS VERSION 1.1

Dr. Helwig stated that AHRQ has been working to further refine the hospital-focused Common Formats V.1.1 based on the Expert Panel recommendations specific to the comments received prior to December 31, 2010. A module for venous thromboembolism (VTE) has been developed and routed through the AHRQ Patient Safety workgroup. This module will become part of Common Formats V.1.2. AHRQ staff will work with Ms. Murphy offline to develop a schedule for commenting on this beta module, similar to the abbreviated commenting period for the Common Formats for Health Information Technology (HIT).

In response to an Expert Panel member's question about inclusion of a diagnosis as an event, Dr. Munier explained that the module for VTE was developed as this patient safety event is included in the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) "all cause harm" initiative that puts all healthcare-acquired conditions (HACs) as a top priority for which prevention strategies are currently being developed. Because the Common Formats were designed to facilitate collection of information on any kind of event, common or infrequently occurring, VTE events are an important addition. Such information could trigger a root cause analysis (RCA) resulting in learning and improved prevention.

NQF MEMBER AND PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments were offered.

NEXT STEPS

The Expert Panel is expected to attend the AHRQ Annual PSO meeting (**May 9-10**) and the AHRQ Software Developers Meeting (**May 11**) in Rockville, Maryland, schedules permitting. A dinner for the Common Formats Expert Panel will be planned during the conference to provide the group time to discuss conference content in light of the Panel's charge.