NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM

CONFERENCE CALL FOR THE COMMON FORMATS EXPERT PANEL

May 14, 2010

Panel Members: Henry Johnson, Jr., MD, MPH (co-chair); Peter Elkin, MD, MACP; Paul Gluck, MD; Lori Paine, RN, MS; Heather Sherman, PhD

NQF Staff: Melinda L. Murphy, RN, MS; Lindsey Tighe, MS

Others Present: Amy Helwig, MD; John Moquin, CPHIMS; Manish Parekhji, MD, MMI; Sue Terrillion; Patricia Sokol, RN, JD

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS
Dr. Johnson welcomed and thanked the panel for their continued participation. He noted that both the AHRQ software developer's meeting and the AHRQ Patient Safety Organization meeting held during the first week of May were very informative for those in attendance. Additionally, the conferences were well attended and demonstrated the progress the Common Formats project has made.

COMMON FORMATS VERSION 1.1 STATUS REPORT
Dr. Helwig stated that Common Formats Version 1.1was released on March 31. This version includes event descriptions, paper forms, data dictionary, technical specifications, metadata, and sample reports. Currently, four sample reports are left to be posted by the end of May. Once all reports are released to NQF, the commenting tool will open and NQF will begin receiving comments to Version 1.1.

Dr. Helwig presented information about the technical specifications, noting that Mr. Moquin and Dr. Parekhji would present on local use of the Common Formats and data submission for the PSO to the Privacy Protection Center (PPC), respectively.

Technical Specifications
Dr. Helwig informed the Panel that the technical specifications will standardize the patient safety event information as well as specification of valid values and conditional and go to logic for the data elements reported. The technical specifications also discuss that Clinical Document Architecture (CDA) format is the file format for data submission to the PPC. The uniformity of the reporting of the data elements will allow for aggregation of patient safety event data.

Local Specifications
Mr. Moquin described the components of the local specifications to the Panel members.
- "Use Case descriptions" outline the proposed functionality and detail the specific interactions between a user and the system.
- "The Logical Data model" represents the logical entities, relationships, and attributes, required to store Common Formats v1.1 information. Additionally, it provides the basis for the creation of the physical data model.
- "The Data Management document" provides guidelines for data collection and storage methods for various case types.
- Metadata provide information about data elements and answer values, both technical specifications and guidance for clinical use at the point of data collection.
- "Appendix B: Common Formats Flow Charts" are derived from paper forms and event descriptions. These charts covers three case types (incident, near miss, and unsafe conditions), the summary of initial report, and event specific categories.

- "Data Collection Order Flow Charts" suggest an efficient method of data collection for patient safety cases that involve more than one category, accounting for links between event categories, and selection of multiple categories for a single report.
- "Consistency of Meaning" among data elements allows programming logic that ensures consistency of answers across forms. This will decrease data collection time because users will not be presented with questions that are not applicable to their situation.

Data Submission for PSO to PPC
Dr. Parekhji informed the Panel that data submission from the PSO to the PPC will include reporting of incidents, near misses, and unsafe conditions. Each will be reported separately, and the exchange of information will utilize the CDA XML file format.

The technical specifications will work together to provide the necessary information, valid responses, and values for the data elements. Multiple answer values are allowed, but validation rules prevent selection of two values in conflict with each other.

The implementation guide provides detailed instructions of how to create the CDA XML file, the structure of the header and body, and information within the header and body on how to structure the data elements to create one CDA XML file. Once the file is created, it will be submitted securely using the psoppc.org website. The submitter will receive a confirmation email and will be able to log-in to the website and view submission report acceptance status and details.

Questions from Panel Members
A Panel member asked whether AHRQ would attempt to code elements from the models and the answers into standard ontology such as SNOMED. Dr. Parekhji stated that in creating V1.1, attempts were made to map to existing ontologies wherever possible, including SNOMED and ICD-9 codes. Mr. Moquin agreed, noting that there is no interest in creating a new ontology, and they are planning to get Common Formats v1.1 into SNOMED.

Dr. Helwig informed the Panel that an event reporter must complete all fields of the submission form including patient name, would be determined at the local level. The patient name does not go forth to the PPC or the network of patient safety databases; however, whether it is required by the PSO will be determined at the local level.

DISCUSSION AND NEXT STEPS
Once sample aggregate reports are completed for each Common Formats event type, the NQF commenting tool, updated with Version 1.1 event descriptions and related reporting forms, will be opened for comment. At present, it is anticipated that NQF will accept comments on Version 1.1 through December 2010 and commenting could continue into 2011.

Dr. Helwig stated that work on drafting event descriptions for Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs) continues, with the expectation of having drafts of paper event descriptions and reports by the end of 2010. After receiving comments on the drafts, work on the technical specifications for SNFs will begin. The SNF version will not contain blood, perinatal, surgery, or anesthesia events; however, there is potential for topics revolving around accidents to be added (i.e., elopement, severe burns, accidental strangling).

The June 14 conference call for the Common Formats Expert Panel has been canceled. *The next conference call will take place on Friday, July 9, from 10 am-11:30 am ET.*

Adjourn.