

NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM

CONFERENCE CALL FOR THE COMMON FORMATS EXPERT PANEL

July 9, 2010

Panel Members Participating: David Classen, MD, MS (co-chair); John Clarke, MD; Peter Elkin, MD, MACP; Karen Frush, BSN, MD; Matthew Grissinger, RPh, MS; Mark Keroack, MD, MPH; Helen Lau, RN, MHROD, BSN; William Munier, MD, MBA; Nancy Ridley, MS; Heather Sherman, PhD

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

Others Participating: Peter Goldschmidt, MD; Amy Helwig, MD, MS; John Moquin; Patricia Sokol; Margaret Toepp; Carol Vargo; Allison Viola

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Dr. Classen welcomed the Panel members to the call and thanked them for their continued participation on the Common Formats Expert Panel. Dr. Classen then asked Drs. Munier and Helwig to provide an update on the status of Common Formats for Hospitals v1.1.

UPDATE ON COMMON FORMATS FOR HOSPITALS V1.1

Dr. Munier stated that Common Formats v1.1 has been published; however, some of the technical specifications are still being issued. The technical specifications that were issued in late March are sufficient for submitting events from the Patient Safety Organizations (PSOs) to the Privacy Protection Center (PPC), but do not provide all of the logic necessary for software developers to fully develop programs. The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) is on track to release all specifications by the end of July.

AHRQ is also working on an event-specific event description and form for Health Information Technology (HIT)-related patient safety events. Because the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) is required to promulgate meaningful use requirements for the clinical patient record, it is responsible for announcing this set of documents. Of note, ONC has multibillions in resources to facilitate facility adoption of electronic health records.

In response to a question from a Panel member, Dr. Munier explained that software vendors are currently at work translating the Common Formats into software; however, the software is not yet ready and it is likely that no one is collecting data using the Common Formats yet. Mr. Moquin added that the input processor for submitting data through Common Formats is still

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being developed and has not been released. At present, XML files must be uploaded manually, but it will be possible to submit multiple files at a time.

In response to another question regarding the benefits of submitting event reports to the PSO, a Panel member explained that providers have not been uniformly choosing to submit event reports. Depending on the facility and the involved state, submission has been provider specific. Some providers submit reports into the PSO protected space and others withhold in anticipation of litigation. There are incentives for providers to work with PSOs, including aggregation of event data for reporting and learning.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS RELATED TO COMMON FORMATS V1.1

Dr. Munier explained that an increasing number of states are requiring facilities to report data about healthcare associated infections (HAI) through the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN). AHRQ is striving to ensure that Common Formats will enable the HAI data submitted to NHSN to be downloaded from NHSN to Common Formats for reporting. Also, AHRQ intends that data from Common Formats can be downloaded into the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) system, as a way for healthcare facilities to satisfy reporting requirements issued by CDC. Because the Common Formats requires fewer elements than does NHSN, it becomes a “lite” version. CDC may also be working on a more streamlined version.

Dr. Munier also informed the Expert Panel that the incident event reporting aspect of Common Formats will potentially be written into the meaningful use of HIT clause, as being developed by the CDC, NHSN, and ONC.

COMMON FORMATS FOR SKILLED NURSING FACILITIES

Dr. Helwig stated that the initial drafts for the main topic areas that will be covered by the Common Formats for Skilled Nursing Facilities have been completed. These drafts, which will probably be published in late fall 2010, will be reviewed over the next few months as determinations are made on what to include.

This current Common Formats Expert Panel will review comments received about the Common Formats for Skilled Nursing Facilities. New members or consultants can provide any additional expertise that may be needed.

In response to a question, Dr. Helwig informed the Panel that Ambulatory Surgery Centers will be the next healthcare environment for which Common Formats will be developed.

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NEXT STEPS

The commenting period for Common Formats v1.1 will be open into early 2011. Comments will be reviewed by the Expert Panel subgroups after the period closes, as has been done previously. A face-to-face meeting for the Expert Panel to finalize its recommendations will likely be held in June, 2011.

Commenting tools for Common Formats for Skilled Nursing Facilities and for Health IT-related events will be developed and managed through NQF in consultation with AHRQ. These tools will likely close in January 2011. Comments will be reviewed by the subgroups and a face-to-face meeting of the Expert Panel to finalize recommendations will likely be held in March, 2011.

The Common Formats Expert Panel will attend the annual AHRQ PSO Meeting in May, 2011.

There will not be an August call for the Common Formats Expert Panel. **The Panel will next meet by conference call from 10:00 am-11:30 am ET on Friday, September 10, 2010.**

A survey will be sent to Common Formats Expert Panel members to assess future needs and availability to participate on the Panel.