

# NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM

## CONFERENCE CALL FOR THE COMMON FORMATS EXPERT PANEL

**November 12, 2010**

*Panel Members:* David Classen, MD, MS (co-chair); Henry Johnson, Jr., MD, MPH (co-chair); Karen Frush, BSN, MD; Matthew Grissinger, RPh, MS; Mark Keroack, MD, MPH; Helen Lau, RN, MHRD, BSN; Shannon Phillips, MD, MPH; Nancy Ridley, MS; Heather Sherman, PhD ;  
*Liaison Member:* William Munier, MD, MBA

*NQF Staff:* Peter Angood, MD; Melinda Murphy, RN, MS; Lindsey Tighe, MS

*Others Present:* Diane Cousins, RPh; Peter Goldschmidt, MD; Amy Helwig, MD, MS; John Moquin; Debbie Perfetto; Susan Terrillion (AHRQ); Maureen Dailey; Rita Munley Gallagher, PhD, RN (ANA); Dianne Roux-Lirange, PhD, MSRN (IPRO)

### **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 Dr. Helwig to provide an update on the status of Common Formats.

### **UPDATE ON COMMON FORMATS VERSION 1.1**

Dr. Helwig reminded the panel members that the commenting tool for Common Formats Version 1.1 is still open, and that comments will continue to be received until Version 1.2 is posted. However, based on agreement with the Panel, only comments received through December 31, 2011 will be used by AHRQ to update Version 1.1 to Version 1.2. It is expected that Version 1.2 will be released on or about March 31, 2011. As with Version 1.1, the update will include event descriptions, sample reports, and paper forms. The technical specifications will be revised during the Spring and Summer of 2011, with an expected release date at the end of Summer 2011.

### **UPDATE ON COMMON FORMAT DEVICE WITH HIT**

Dr. Helwig noted that the commenting period for the device form that includes Health Information Technology (HIT) will close on November 23. As previously discussed, this should allow comments received to be reviewed by the Expert Panel on the December 13 conference call. In response to a question from a panel member, Dr. Helwig stated that the Common Format Device or Medical/Surgical Supply, including Health Information Technology (HIT) Device form will be included in the Common Formats Version 1.2 update as a replacement for the device format now in Version 1.1.

### **UPDATE ON COMMON FORMATS FOR SKILLED NURSING FACILITIES (SNF)**

While work on SNF Common Formats has been delayed get the HIT format out, it is proceeding. A beta version is expected to be released in early 2011 with event descriptions, paper forms and sample aggregate reports.

### **EXPERT PANEL DISCUSSION**

In response to a question from a panel member, Dr. Helwig advised the panel that AHRQ has been working with NQF to convene states with adverse event reporting systems and educate

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them on the Common Formats. The states have shown an interest in Common Formats. Ms. Murphy further noted that the effort between AHRQ and NQF is firstly to understand how the states are currently reporting events and to bring them together to in an effort to facilitate an approach to moving forward in a more standardized way. The states are interested in the happenings of event reporting at the federal level, particularly with respect to Healthcare Acquired Infections (HAI).

In response to a question about a potential Common Format for malpractice claims, Dr. Helwig noted there are no plans for such. A panel member asked whether there is information available about how many hospitals and healthcare systems have joined Patient Safety Organizations (PSOs) and are submitting event information. Dr. Helwig responded that AHRQ does not know the total number of providers with which the PSOs are representing. Some PSOs that cannot meet the contract requirements or cannot establish a successful business model to operate have been voluntarily “delisted”. A panel member noted that she has heard that there is a desire to make Common Formats mandatory. Dr. Helwig noted there is no discussion at AHRQ in this regard.

## NEXT STEPS

Ms. Murphy stated that sixty-one comments had been received through the commenting tool on both Common Formats Version 1.1 and the Common Format Device or Medical/Surgical Supply, including Health Information Technology (HIT) Device form. Of those comments, 31 have been triaged to AHRQ and 30 have been triaged to the Expert Panel. While there are over one hundred registered users of the commenting tool, only twelve people representing twelve different organizations have provided the comments.

The commenting period for the beta version of Common Format Device or Medical/Surgical Supply, including Health Information Technology (HIT) Device documents will close on November 23. The comments received will be reviewed by Expert Panel Group B in early December, prior to the next Expert Panel call scheduled for December 13.

Comments received on Common Formats Version 1.1 through December 31, 2010 will be reviewed by the Expert Panel and utilized by AHRQ to update the Common Formats to Version 1.2. Depending upon the number of comments received, the Expert Panel may meet for an in-person meeting on February 3-4, 2011 to review and make recommendation for addressing the comments. If the number of comments received remains, the comments will be reviewed via conference call on one of those days.

The AHRQ Annual PSO meeting will take place in Rockville, MD on May 10 and 11, 2011. As part of the PSO meeting, software developers will meet, on May 12. Expert Panel members are invited to attend the full meeting.

Ms. Murphy advised that two individuals will join the Expert Panel. A nurse with a gerontology background, currently serving on a NQF technical advisory panel considering serious reportable events in skilled nursing facilities, replaces a member who resigned the panel earlier. It is expected that she will provide expertise across the Common Formats and will be particularly helpful to Panel deliberations when comments about the SNF Common Formats are being considered. The second individual, the CIO of a provider organization, will serve as an

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advisor to the Panel during the period that comments regarding the beta version of the HIT-related event Common Format are considered. In response to a question regarding a more broad HIT representation, Ms. Murphy noted that the strength of Panel expertise in HIT-related matters resulted in the decision that the addition of an advisor with experience at the provider level would round out that expertise.

The October meeting summary was approved by the Expert Panel.

A list of scheduled conference calls will be sent to the Expert Panel.

The next conference call will take place on Monday, December 13 at 4pm EST.

The meeting adjourned.