



## Cost and Efficiency Standing Committee Web Meeting

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The National Quality Forum (NQF) convened a public web meeting for the Cost and Efficiency Standing Committee on February 7, 2018, 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm ET.

### Welcome, Introductions, and Review of Web Meeting Objectives

Katherine McQueston, senior project manager, NQF, welcomed participants to the web meeting. Vanessa Moy, project analyst, NQF noted the following meeting objectives:

- Orient Standing Committee members to the newly redesigned Consensus Development Process (CDP)
- Review NQF's Measure Evaluation Criteria
- Review updates on NQF's social risk work
- Review eMeasure Approval for Trial Use

### Overview of CDP Redesign

Ms. McQueston, senior project manager, NQF, presented on revisions to the CDP that were initiated in the summer of 2017.

Major changes include the following:

- Two measure submission cycles for every topic area, each calendar year
- Streamlined committee topic areas; 22 topical areas were consolidated to 15 new topical areas
- Formation of an independent Scientific Methods Panel, which is tasked with conducting Scientific Acceptability reviews of complex measures
- Revised technical report structure to minimize the length and density of the report
- Extended 16-week public and NQF member commenting period
- Expanded training and education opportunities for all stakeholders.

One Committee member asked about the timeframes in which the Scientific Methods Panel operates. Staff clarified that there is a new step of the process, the intent to submit, where a measure developer indicates its desire to submit a measure for endorsement by providing preliminary information, including testing information. The Scientific Methods Panel reviews this information in advance of the full measure submission. The Panel also meets throughout the year to assist NQF in working through key methodological issues.

### NQF Evaluation Criteria and Guidance

Erin O'Rourke, senior director, NQF, presented an overview and highlighted recent changes to NQF Evaluation Criteria and Guidance.

Major changes include the following:

- Strengthening the requirements for outcome measures

- Additional guidance for instrument-based measure guidance
- Additional guidance for threshold and timeframes
- Strengthening guidance for face validity
- Clarified wording around the exclusion criteria
- Use criterion is now must-pass for maintenance measures
- New information on best practices for ICD (International Classification of Diseases) -10 coding

Committee members supported having external experts provide input on testing information, noting that it would alleviate burden on the Committee and provide consistency in measure evaluation.

## **Social Risk Overview**

Ms. O'Rourke presented on NQF's trial period to adjust for social risk factors and NQF's new initiatives to promote health equity. As part of the equity program, NQF standing committees will continue to assess the need for social risk adjustment in measures submitted for NQF endorsement. NQF staff noted that the Standing Committee will continue to evaluate the measure as a whole, including the appropriateness of the risk adjustment approach.

## **eMeasure Approval for Trial Use**

Ms. O'Rourke presented on eMeasure Approval for Trial Use requirements. NQF piloted eMeasure Approval for Trial Use for eMeasures that are ready for implementation but cannot be adequately tested to meet NQF endorsement criteria. The goal for approving eMeasures for trial use is to promote implementation and more robust reliability and validity testing that leverage clinical data in EHRs. NQF uses the multistakeholder consensus process to evaluate and approve eMeasures for trial use that address important areas of performance measurement and quality improvement.

## **Public Comment**

Ms. McQueston opened the web meeting to allow for public comment. No public comments were received.

## **Next Steps**

Ms. Moy presented on the Committee's next steps. The next call will be on the topics of feedback on social risk trial, introduction to the equity program, and attribution. It will take place on Thursday, February 15, 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm.