



TO: Consensus Standards Approval Committee (CSAC)  
FR: NQF Staff  
RE: Review Process of NQF #2431, #2436, and #2579  
DA: August 5, 2016

## **ACTION REQUIRED**

CSAC is asked to determine whether to uphold NQF endorsement of NQF #2431: Hospital-level, risk-standardized payment associated with a 30-day episode-of-care for Acute Myocardial Infarction (AMI) (CMS/Yale), NQF #2436: Hospital-level, risk-standardized payment associated with a 30-day episode-of-care for Heart Failure (HF) (CMS/Yale), and #2579: Hospital-level, risk-standardized payment associated with a 30-day episode of care pneumonia (CMS/Yale).

## **TIMELINE OF REVIEW**

- In December 2014 the NQF Board of Directors endorsed NQF #2431, #2426, and #2579 with conditions.
- In May 2015 the Cost and Resource Use Standing Committee Standing Committee met to review the conceptual basis for adjusting the measures for sociodemographic (SDS) factors.
- In October 2015 the Standing Committee reviewed the developer's empirical analyses for adjustment for SDS factors. The Standing Committee recommended the measures for continued endorsement without SDS adjustment.
- In November 2015 the measures were put out for public comment.
- In January 2016 CSAC approved the Standing Committee's recommendation.
- In February 2016 the NQF Executive Committee ratified this recommendation.
- In April 2016 appeals of this decision were submitted by the American Medical Association (AMA) and jointly by four hospital associations, the American Hospital Association, the Federation of American Hospitals, the Association of American Medical Colleges, and America's Essential Hospitals.
- In May 2016 NQF responded to the appellants.
- In May 2016 CMS responded to the appellants and provided updated analyses using nine digit ZIP code data.
- In June 2016 NQF convened the appellants, CMS, Yale/CORE, the CSAC co-chairs, and one of the chairs of the Cost and Resource Use Standing Committee. The goal of this call was to foster a dialogue between the affected parties and to lay out potential options as the appeal is considered.
- In July 2016 NQF staff briefed the CSAC on the appeal.
- In July 2016 the Cost and Resource Use Standing Committee met to review the updated analyses and provide guidance to CSAC.

## **Next Steps**

CSAC will review the Standing Committee's input and consider the appeal during their August 9 meeting.