



EHR Data Quality Best Practices for Increased Scientific Acceptability

BACKGROUND

Electronic health records (EHRs) have become important data sources for measure development, because these data are captured in structured fields during patient care and are in wide use: 86 percent of office-based physicians use an EHR, as well as 96 percent of acute care hospitals. The use of EHR data is expected to reduce provider burden associated with collecting and reporting data for public reporting and value-based purchasing. Furthermore, federal programs such as Meaningful Use promoted EHR use with the goal of improving care coordination and population health outcomes, as well as healthcare quality. While the increased use of EHRs holds out promise for enhancing quality measurement, there is considerable variation in data quality.

Electronic clinical quality measures (eCQMs), which are specified to use EHRs as a source of data, were designed to enable automated reporting of measures using structured data. Combining electronic eCQMs with structured EHR data has the potential to provide timely and accurate information pertinent to clinical decision support and facilitate timely and regular monitoring of service utilization and health outcomes. However, eCQMs and EHR data are not enough to enable automated quality measurement. eCQMs require that every single data element used within an eCQM measure specification be collected as a discrete structured data element. EHR data are primarily designed to support patient care and billing, not necessarily capture data for secondary uses such as quality measurement. Furthermore, while EHR use has led to an increase in the volume of structured data, EHR data are often not at the right level of completeness or level of granularity needed for effective use with eCQMs.

NQF will convene a Technical Expert Panel (TEP) to explore the challenges of assessing the quality of EHR data so that it can be combined with eCQMs to fulfill the promise of automated quality measurement. The TEP will identify the causes, nature, and extent of EHR data quality issues and recommend best practices for addressing them to increase scientific acceptability (i.e., reliability, validity), use and usability, and feasibility of eCQMs. To facilitate this work, NQF will conduct a comprehensive environmental scan of current practices and challenges that currently exist in assessing EHR data quality. A report detailing the findings of the environmental scan will be released for public comment. NQF also will document the best practices identified by the TEP and their application in a second report that will also be released for public comment.

TEP CHARGE

The TEP will provide feedback on the initial findings from the environmental scan and additional input, as needed, to address public comments on scan findings. Building on the findings of the environmental scan, the TEP will discuss and identify best practices for increased EHR data quality

to improve the scientific acceptability of eCQMs. TEP recommendations will be included in a draft report that will be open for a public comment period. Following the comment period, the TEP will revise the draft report and share a final version.

TEP STRUCTURE

Ten to 20 individuals will be selected to serve on the multistakeholder TEP for a 15-month term.

Participation on the TEP requires a significant time commitment. To apply, TEP members should be available to participate in all currently scheduled calls/meetings. Over the course of the project, additional calls may be scheduled, or calls may be rescheduled based on project needs; new dates will be set based on the availability of the majority of the TEP.

TEP participation includes:

- Seven web meetings (up to two hours)
- Additional web meetings, if needed

Scheduled Meeting Dates

Meeting	Date/Time
Web Meeting 1	November 13, 2019, 1:30 – 3:30 pm ET
Web Meeting 2	December 12, 2019, 11:00 AM – 1:00 pm ET
Web Meeting 3	March 31, 2020, 1:30 – 3:30 pm ET
Web Meeting 4	April 29, 2020, 1:00 – 3:00 pm ET
Web Meeting 5	June 11, 2020, 11:00 AM – 1:00 pm ET
Web Meeting 6	September 9, 2020, 11:00 AM – 1:00 pm ET
Web Meeting 7	November 10, 2020, 1:30 – 3:30 pm ET

PREFERRED EXPERTISE AND COMPOSITION

TEP members are selected to ensure representation from a variety of stakeholders from across the healthcare delivery system (e.g., health plans, healthcare facilities, specialty societies, academia, purchasers, employers, patient advocacy groups, etc.). Because NQF attempts to represent a diversity of stakeholder perspectives, only a limited number of individuals from each of these stakeholder groups can be seated. Specifically, NQF is seeking nominees with expertise in electronic health record data standards and vocabularies; experts in electronic clinical quality measures, including both those who develop and those who implement these measures; architects of information networks that facilitate data exchange or ensure data quality; providers with concurrent expertise in informatics, electronic clinical quality measurement, and applications in various common care settings; federal, state, and local government agencies that have

developed and implemented policies to encourage data standardization and quality; informaticists; data architects; privacy and security experts; consumer representatives; standards-setting organizations; and EHR vendors.

Please review the NQF [conflict of interest policy](#) to learn about how NQF identifies potential conflicts of interest. All potential TEP members must disclose any current and past activities prior to and during the nomination process in order to be considered.

CONSIDERATION AND SUBSTITUTION

Priority will be given to nominations from NQF members when nominee expertise is comparable. Please note that nominations are for an individual, not an organization, so “substitutions” of other individuals are not permitted. TEP members are encouraged to engage colleagues and solicit input from colleagues throughout the process.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Nominations are sought for individual subject matter experts. Self-nominations are welcome. Third-party nominations must indicate that the individual has been contacted and is willing to serve.

To nominate an individual to the EHR Data Quality TEP, please submit the following information:

- a completed [online nomination form](#), including:
 - a brief statement of interest
 - a brief description of nominee expertise highlighting experience relevant to the TEP
 - a short biography (maximum 100 words), highlighting experience/knowledge relevant to the expertise described above
 - curriculum vitae or list of relevant experience (e.g., publications) *up to 20 pages*
- A completed disclosure of interest form. This will be requested upon your submission of the nomination form.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION

All nominations **MUST** be submitted by **6:00 pm ET on September 16, 2019**.

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions, please contact Jean-Luc Tilly or Ameera Chaudhry at 202-783-1300 or EHRDataQuality@qualityforum.org. Thank you for your interest.