

THE NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

NATIONAL VOLUNTARY CONSENSUS STANDARDS FOR ENDORSING PERFORMANCE MEASURES FOR RESOURCE USE: PHASES I & II

NQF is seeking nominations for members for a Steering Committee for a new project to address the important considerations in the evaluation of resource use measures across sites and settings of care across episodes. This committee will later use this work in the evaluation of resource use measures for endorsement.

BACKGROUND

Evidence shows that not all care leads to better outcomes, thus some portion of these current costs may be unnecessary. The interaction between the resources used to deliver care and the quality of care that is delivered, or efficiency of care, are of particular importance for this project. Resource use can be defined by three primary units of measurement which are per capita, service specific, or episode-based. For this project, NQF plans to evaluate and endorse resource use measures for reporting at multiple levels, including the individual and group physician level.

This effort will convene in two phases. Phase I of the project will focus on the development of two commissioned white papers aimed at laying the foundation for this committee's work; the first paper will identify the sets of quality and efficiency measures that could be applied at a geographic or population level, the second on criteria for determining the appropriateness of episode-based resource use measures. This will be followed by Phase II, a consensus development project to review and endorse resource use measures across 18 conditions drawn from Medicare's list of high impact conditions:

- Congestive Heart Failure
- Coronary Artery Disease
- Acute Myocardial Infarction
- Stroke/TIA
- Hypertension
- Diabetes
- Chronic Kidney Disease
- Asthma
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
- Cholecystitis/Cholelithiasis
- Breast Cancer
- Prostate Cancer
- Colorectal Cancer
- Urinary Tract Infection
- Pneumonia
- Hip Fracture
- Osteoarthritis
- Spine/Low Back Pain

In addition to the Steering Committee evaluation of submitted measures, technical advisers will be convened to provide clinical expertise and evaluation of measures to the steering committee. A call for nominations for technical advisers is expected to begin in spring of 2010.

To date, NQF has endorsed episodes of care framework and efficiency-focused measures through other projects including Hospital Outcomes and Efficiency I & II and Imaging Efficiency, however, this will be NQF's first project focused on cost and resource use.

All nominations are due by Monday, December 28, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. EST

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STEERING COMMITTEE

The steering committee will be charged with reviewing the two commissioned white papers in draft during Phase I to address any pertinent issues for the authors and final drafts of the documents. The focus of the committee, however, will be on identifying the methodological issues that require clarification *before* episode-based resource use measures are evaluated in [Phase II](#) (Hyperlink). This work would be aligned with NQF's measure evaluation criteria, providing guidance on application to resource use measures and expanding the NQF evaluation criteria if there are unique aspects of resource use measures that need to be addressed.

Using the work completed in Phase I, during Phase II of this project, the steering committee will oversee the development of a draft consensus report, including recommendation of which measures should be endorsed as consensus standards for resource use. **Steering Committee members should not have a vested interest in the candidate measures. This includes employees or contractors of measure owners/developers; members of workgroups that developed the measures; and members of committees that approve measures, or direct or set policy for measure development.** Please see the NQF website for additional information about the [Conflict of Interest policy](#). All potential Steering Committee members must disclose any relevant current and past activities during the nomination process.

This Steering Committee, comprised of 15-20 individuals, will represent the range of stakeholder perspectives possessing relevant knowledge and/or experience in, but not limited to:

- Episode-based measurement
- Measurement methodologies (e.g. risk adjustment models, models for attribution, data aggregation, grouping)
- Measurement of costs and resource use
- Patient-centered care models
- Efficiency of care measurement

As with all NQF projects, the Steering Committees will work with NQF staff to provide advice about the subject, ensure input is obtained from relevant stakeholders, and review draft products.

Time Commitment: Across the two phases of this project, the Steering Committee will meet in person for two, two-day meetings in Washington, DC, and a series of conference calls. Follow-up e-mail communications or conference calls may be needed. ***Tentative dates*** for meetings and conference calls for Phases I & II are listed below.

Phase I Meetings	Dates
Orientation Webinar	February 5, 2010
Conference call to review White paper #1	March 8, 2010
Conference call to review White paper #2	March 12, 2010
2-day In-person Meeting	April 16-17, 2010
Follow-up conference call	April 30, 2010
Conference call to discuss public comments	July 14, 2010

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Phase II Meetings	Dates
Conference call to review initial measures	September 2010
2-day In person Meeting	TBD
In person follow- up conference call	TBD

CONSIDERATION AND SUBSTITUTION

Priority will be given to nominations from NQF Members. Please note that nominations are to an individual, not an organization, so “substitutions” of other individuals from an organization are not permitted.

MATERIAL TO SUBMIT

Self-nominations are welcome. Third-party nominations must indicate that the individual has been contacted and is willing to serve. To be considered for appointment to the Steering Committees or TAPs, please send the following information:

- A completed [Efficiency Nomination Form](#);
- Confirmation of availability to participate at the in-person meetings;
- A two-page letter of interest;
- A 100 word maximum biography, highlighting experience/knowledge relevant to the expertise described above;
- Curriculum vitae and/or list of relevant experience (e.g., publications) *up to 20 pages*; and
- Completed [Non-Disclosure Agreement](#) form.

Materials should only be submitted via email to efficiency@qualityforum.org with the subject line “Nominations”.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION

All nominations MUST be submitted by **6:00 p.m. ET on Monday, December 28, 2009**.

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions, please contact, Ashlie Wilbon, RN, MPH at 202-783-1300 or via e-mail at efficiency@qualityforum.org.

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