

THE NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

IMAGING EFFICIENCY

NQF is seeking nominations for members of a Steering Committee for a new project to endorse measures focusing on appropriate use of imaging in the outpatient setting.

BACKGROUND

There is a clear need for measurement and research regarding the appropriate and effective use of imaging in a clinical setting. Medicare spends approximately \$14 billion annually on outpatient imaging studies.¹ It is imperative to clarify which imaging procedures and technology result in improvements in patient care and possible decreases in healthcare costs. Given the specific inclusion of overuse of imaging procedures in the National Priorities Partnership, it is anticipated that these measures will seek to improve the rate of cost growth and enhance the quality of care provided.

To date, NQF has endorsed a limited number of imaging efficiency measures focused on appropriateness of imaging, efficient use and management of imaging diagnostic services, coordination of care and communication among all providers and departments regarding a diagnostic imaging service. NQF will implement this project as a follow-up project to the [Outpatient Imaging Efficiency project report](#) that was completed in November 2008. There was a limited set of measures that specifically examined the use of imaging procedures that were unlikely to result in improved patient outcomes. This follow-up project seeks to fill measurement gaps that address overuse of high cost, high risk imaging in the outpatient setting.

STEERING COMMITTEE:

A Steering Committee will oversee the development of a draft consensus report, including recommendation of which measures of outpatient imaging efficiency should be endorsed as consensus standards. **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 current and past activities during the nomination process.

In order to endorse consensus standards for imaging efficiency which have the potential to improve patient outcomes, quality and affordability of healthcare, NQF is seeking nominations for members of a Steering Committee with various stakeholder perspectives and expertise in efficiency, appropriateness, and imaging. Needed expertise would include radiology as well as clinicians that refer patients for imaging. Based on the [measures](#) we anticipate will be submitted to this project, specific expertise in the following clinical and imaging domains is requested:

All nominations are due by Wednesday, January 6, 2010 at 6:00 PM ET

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- Cancer screening, including breast and colon cancer screening;
- Cardiology and cardiac imaging;
- Neurology and neuroradiology;
- Pulmonary and thoracic imaging;
- Use of imaging in emergency or trauma situations;
- Pediatrics and imaging for children;

As with all NQF projects, the Steering Committee will work with NQF staff to develop specific project plans, provide advice about the subject, ensure input is obtained from relevant stakeholders, review draft products, and recommend specific measures and research priorities to NQF Members for consideration under the Consensus Development Process.

TIME COMMITMENT:

The Steering Committee will have a two day in-person meeting on **Tuesday and Wednesday, February 23 and 24, 2010 in Washington, DC**. Additionally, Steering Committee members will meet for three, two hour conference calls. The first conference call is scheduled for February 19th, 2010. Follow-up e-mail communications or conference calls may be needed.

CONSIDERATION AND SUBSTITUTION:

All nominations will be considered for the Steering Committee. 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 at conference calls 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 Committee, please send the following information:

- A completed Nomination Form;
- Confirmation of availability to participate in the in person two-day meeting on **Tuesday and Wednesday, February 23 and 24, 2010 in Washington, DC**;
- A 2-page letter of interest and a 100 word maximum biography, highlighting experience/knowledge relevant to the expertise described above and involvement in candidate measure development; and
- A curriculum vitae and/or list of relevant experience (e.g., publications) *up to 20 pages*;
and

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- A completed “[Non-Disclosure Agreement](#)” form.

Materials should be submitted only via email to imagingefficiency2@qualityforum.org with the subject line “Nominations”.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION

All nominations MUST be submitted by **6:00pm ET on Wednesday, January 6, 2010.**

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions, please contact, Ian Corbridge, MPH, RN, at 202.783.1300 or imagingefficiency2@qualityforum.org.

ⁱ Government Accountability Office (GAO), *Medicare Part B Imaging Services: Rapid Spending Growth and Shift to Physician Offices Indicate Need for CMS to Consider Additional Management Practices*, Washington, DC: GPO; 2008. Available at www.gao.gov/new.items/d08452.pdf. Last accessed October 2009

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