

NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM

CONFERENCE CALL OF THE IMAGING EFFICIENCY STEERING COMMITTEE

December 15, 2010

Steering Committee Members Present: Scott Gazelle, MD, PhD, MPH (Co-Chair); Jacqueline Bello, MD; Stephen Cantrill, MD; Troy Fiesinger, MD; Howard Forman, MD, MBA; Raymond Gibbons, MD; Richard Griffey, MD, MPH; Lazlo Mechtler, MD; Patti Raksin, MD; Donald Rucker, MD, MBA; Gavin Setzen, MD; Roger Snow, MD, MPH; Arthur Stillman, MD, PhD

NQF Staff Present: Helen Burstin, MD, MPH; Sally Turbyville, MA, MS; Sarah Fanta

Others Present: Susan Arday (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services); Judy Burleson (American College of Radiology); Maureen Dailey (American Nurses Association, ANA); Angela Franklin (American College of Emergency Physicians); Rita Gallagher (ANA); Lisa Grabert (New York Hospital Association); Rachel Groman (American Association of Neurological Surgeons); Sharman Stephens (The Lewin Group)

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

NQF staff welcomed the Imaging Efficiency Steering Committee and took roll call. The two main objectives of the conference call were to:

1. Determine if the Steering Committee should maintain its recommendation for time-limited endorsement of measure IEP-008-10, Appropriate cervical spine radiography and CT imaging in trauma, based on public and Member comments
2. Discuss a letter received from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) that addresses Steering Committee recommendations for:
 - IEP-012-10 Simultaneous use of brain computed tomography (CT) and sinus CT
 - IEP-013-10 Use of computed tomography (CT) in the emergency department (ED) for atraumatic headache

PROJECT UPDATE

NQF staff gave an overview of the project activities to date:

- The Consensus Standards Approval Committee (CSAC) approved six recommended measures on September 8, 2010. The measures are slated for the Board of Directors' decision on ratification in early 2011.

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- NQF obtained public and Member comments for newly combined measure IEP-008-10, Appropriate cervical spine radiography and CT imaging in trauma. NQF accepted comments from November 10, 2010, through December 2, 2010, from the public and through December 9, 2010, from Members.

REVIEW OF AND RESPONSE TO COMMENTS ON ADDENDUM DRAFT IMAGING EFFICIENCY REPORT AND ON MEASURE IEP-008-10

NQF received 14 comments on the addendum Imaging Efficiency draft report and on the newly combined measure IEP-008-10, Appropriate cervical spine radiography and CT imaging in trauma, from the public and NQF Members.

Background

During the Consensus Development Process, the Steering Committee identified NQF-endorsed[®] measure 0512: Percentage of patients who do not have neck pain, distracting pain, neurological deficits, reduced level of consciousness, or intoxication (Harborview Medical Center) as being similar to submitted measure IEP-008-10, Appropriate cervical spine CT imaging in trauma (Partners Healthcare, Inc.). Consequently, the Committee asked the measure developers to combine the two measures into one measure that incorporates CT imaging of the cervical spine into with radiography. The measure developers successfully combined the two measures and submitted IEP-008-10 with a new name, Appropriate cervical spine radiography and CT imaging in trauma, for evaluation. The Steering Committee recommended this measure for time-limited endorsement; the measure developers will be required to submit testing data and results to NQF within 12 months after endorsement. Given the time needed to address the Steering Committee's request, the final combined measure was added as an addendum to the previous draft report and underwent a separate public and Member comment period.

If IEP-008-10 is endorsed, NQF 0512 will be retired, Partners Healthcare, Inc. will be the measure steward, and both Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harborview Medical Center will be co-developers.

Measure IEP-008-10: Appropriate cervical spine radiography and CT imaging in trauma (Brigham and Women's Hospital)

Percentage of adult patients undergoing cervical spine radiography or CT imaging for trauma who have a documented evidence-based indication prior to imaging (Canadian C-spine Rule or the NEXUS Low-Risk Criteria) *Recommended for Time-Limited Endorsement*

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Theme 1: Concerns Regarding Testing Evidence

Comments expressed concerns that the measure lacked testing data and data collection to support the effectiveness of the measure.

Steering Committee/NQF Response: The measure is recommended for time-limited endorsement. The measure developer will be required to submit complete measure testing results within 12 months of NQF endorsement; the measure and testing data will be re-evaluated at that time. Further, there are extensive data on which to base a decision regarding the reliability and validity of the two clinical decision rules upon which the measure is based (Canadian C-Spine and NEXUS).

Theme 2: The Use of Computed Tomography (CT)

Comments stated that it is more beneficial to look only at CT dosages, costs, and outcomes, rather than at CT and radiography.

Steering Committee/NQF Response: The Steering Committee specifically recommended that one measure examine both CT and radiography, i.e., the two measures with each imaging modality be combined into one measure. The measure developers stated that because the measure targets the initial imaging for patients with low-risk trauma, examining both CT and radiography is supported. A measure that addresses only radiography *or* CT would miss similar patients who underwent the other imaging procedure. The initial test is at the discretion of the providers (emergency medicine and trauma).

Theme 3: Addendum Draft Report

Comments requested that NQF clarify whether NQF 0512 will be retired if IEP-008-10 is endorsed.

Steering Committee/NQF Response: NQF staff will clarify the draft addendum report, which is hyperlinked to the main report and was sent to the Steering Committee prior to its posting for vote. If IEP-008-10 is endorsed, then NQF 0512 will be retired.

Overall, the consensus of the Committee was that the measure represents a strong indicator of imaging efficiency and quality in the healthcare arena. The Committee decided to maintain its recommendation for time-limited endorsement

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CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES LETTER

NQF received a letter from CMS asking the Steering Committee to reconsider not recommending measures IEP-012-10: Simultaneous use of brain computed tomography (CT) and sinus CT; and IEP-013-10: Use of computed tomography (CT) in the emergency department (ED) for atraumatic headache.

IEP-012-10 Simultaneous Use of Brain Computed Tomography (CT) and Sinus CT

During the Steering Committee's in-person meeting on February 23-24, 2010, the committee determined that this measure does not meet the NQF criterion of Importance to Measure and Report. The letter challenged this decision, requested reconsideration, and provided additional information. During the December 15, 2010, call, the Committee maintained that because the measure does not target an imaging practice with a substantial magnitude of overuse and because of small sample sizes a substantial number of facilities would not be able to report the measure it does not meet the NQF importance criterion.

IEP-013-10 Use of Computed Tomography (CT) in the Emergency Department (ED) for Atraumatic Headache

Prior to public and Member comment, the Steering Committee recommended this measure for endorsement. However, public and Member comments may influence Committee recommendations for or against endorsement, and the majority of public and Member comments received for this measure did not support endorsement as specified. In addition, comments from emergency medicine clinicians, who would be directly affected by the measure, stated that the measure could cause unintended consequences. Based on previous Committee discussions and the comments received, the Committee acknowledged the potential for unintended consequences. The Committee re-voted on the measure via an electronic voting tool, and consequently withdrew its endorsement recommendation. CMS asked the Committee to reconsider its decision to withdraw its recommendation for endorsement and provided further input. During the December 15, 2010, call, the Committee decided to not recommend this measure for NQF endorsement.

Although the Steering Committee maintained its decisions to not recommend the measures for endorsement, the CMS letter will be presented to the Consensus Standards Approval Committee and the Board of Directors for further consideration.

PUBLIC COMMENT

NQF staff asked the operator to open the lines for public comments regarding measure IEP-008-10, the addendum draft report, and the CMS letter. There were no public comments.

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NEXT STEPS

Measure IEP-008-10, Appropriate cervical spine radiography and CT imaging in trauma (Brigham and Women's Hospital), will open for Member voting on **Wednesday, January 5, 2011**, until **Thursday, February 3, 2010, at 6:00 pm ET**.