



## Emergency Department Quality of Transitions of Care

### BACKGROUND

Emergency departments (EDs) play a pivotal role in the delivery of acute ambulatory and inpatient care. According to a research report published by RAND entitled the *Evolving Role of Emergency Departments in the United States*, emergency care is evolving in response to economic, clinical and political pressures. Key findings from the report include the following:

- EDs have become an important source of admissions for American hospitals;
- EDs are being used with increasing frequency to conduct complex diagnostic workups of patients with worrisome symptoms;
- Despite recent efforts to strengthen primary care, the principal reason patients visit EDs for non-emergent outpatient care is lack of timely options elsewhere; and
- EDs may be playing a constructive role in preventing some hospital admissions, particularly those involving patients with an ambulatory care sensitive condition.

Performance measures provide an opportunity to assess key aspects of care for specific conditions or settings of care and identify levers and areas where focused attention can promote quality of care improvement. While ED care is evolving, it is an integral setting in the full spectrum of healthcare delivery systems; yet there are few performance measures that address the quality of transitions of care for a medical condition or for patients moving in and out of an ED. ED visits often represent critical junctures in a patient's health trajectory, making management of those transitions of care important.

The National Quality Forum (NQF) will conduct a multistakeholder review of the current landscape of quality measures focused on transitions of care in and out of the ED and construct a prioritized measure concept list to guide performance measurement development focused on transitions of care.

### EXPERT PANEL CHARGE

NQF will convene a diverse and knowledgeable Expert Panel to provide leadership and guidance to this project. The Panel will be responsible for steering the development of major project components, including:

1. Review of a staff-performed environmental scan of current measures that could be used to reflect care across transitions, which includes the review and assessment of the current landscape of complaint/symptom-based quality measures or measure concepts focused on transitions that are in use in ED settings;

2. Consideration of key elements and components of quality measures focused on transitions of care, while also assessing viable measure concepts and their barriers, strengths, and weaknesses;
3. Develop a list of the current gaps in quality measurement that correspond to bi-directional transitions of care; and,
4. Suggest a process to advance these concepts into measures and recommendations for future use.

## EXPERT PANEL STRUCTURE

The Expert Panel will include no more than 20 individuals seated for one year.

**Participation on the Expert Panel requires a significant time commitment. To apply, you should be available to participate in all currently scheduled calls/meetings.** Over the course of the year, 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 Panel.

**Expert Panel participation includes:**

- Participation in five web meetings in order to meet the goals and objectives of the project
- Participation in the two-day In-Person Meeting

**Table of scheduled meeting dates**

Meeting	Date/Time
Web Meeting #1 (2 hours)	January 4, 2017, 1:00PM-3:00PM ET
Web Meeting #2 (2 hours)	February 1, 2017, 1:00PM-3:00PM ET
Web Meeting #3 (2 hours)	March 15, 2017, 1:00PM-3:00PM ET
In-Person Meeting (2 days)	April 25-April 26, 2017
Web Meeting #4 (2 hours)	May 24, 2017, 1:00PM-3:00PM ET
Web Meeting #5 (2 hours)	July 12, 2017, 1:00PM-3:00PM ET

## PREFERRED EXPERTISE & COMPOSITION

Expert Panel members are selected to ensure representation from a variety of stakeholders, including patients, purchasers, providers, health professionals, plans, suppliers, community and public health, and healthcare quality experts. Because NQF attempts to represent a diversity of stakeholder perspectives on panels, a limited number of individuals from each of these stakeholder groups can be seated.

NQF is seeking nominees with relevant expertise in ED transitions, including experts in readmissions, emergency care, person and family centered care, patient safety, cost & resource

use, behavioral health, cardiovascular health, critical care, neurology, and pediatrics. There is also a specific interest in ensuring the perspectives of patients and caregivers are represented on this Panel.

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

## CONSIDERATION & SUBSTITUTION

Priority will be given to nominations from NQF Members when nominee expertise is comparable. Please note that nominations are to an individual, not an organization, so “substitutions” of other individuals are not permitted. Panel 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 Expert Panel, 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 Panel
  - 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 nominations form.
- Confirmation of availability to participate in currently scheduled calls and meeting dates. Projects actively seeking nominees will solicit this information upon submission of the online nomination form.

## DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION

All nominations *MUST* be submitted by **6:00 pm ET on Thursday, October 13, 2016**.

## QUESTIONS

If you have any questions, please contact the project team at [EMTransitions@qualityforum.org](mailto:EMTransitions@qualityforum.org). Thank you for your interest.