



Geriatrics and Palliative Care Standing Committee— Fall 2019 Post-Comment Meeting and Spring 2020 Topical Webinar

The National Quality Forum (NQF) convened the Geriatrics and Palliative Care Standing Committee for a web meeting on July 9, 2020.

Welcome, Introductions, and Review of Meeting Objectives

Katie Goodwin, NQF director, welcomed the Standing Committee and participants to the web meeting. Ms. Goodwin reviewed the meeting objectives, followed by Ngozi Ihenacho, NQF analyst, who conducted the Committee roll call.

Review and Discussion of Public Comment Received

Katie Goodwin reviewed the two measures that were recommended for endorsement by the Standing Committee during the fall 2019 cycle. NQF explained that due to COVID-19, the commenting period was extended from 30 days to 60 days to allow stakeholders more time to submit comments. Ms. Goodwin reported that NQF received one comment pertaining to measure #2651: *CAHPS Hospice Survey* (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) from the American Geriatrics Society (AGS), an NQF member organization. The comment addressed the following:

- The commenter recommended improving specificity in the questionnaire with respect to person-centered care.
- The commenter also suggested using a different term than communication to capture the dialogue around what matters most in hospice care and to capture whether the team was able to compassionately act on behalf of patients.

The developer replied to the comment saying that they are drafting and field testing a revised version of the CAHPS Hospice Survey. The developer also mentioned that the team will consider AGS's comment about communication by working with a technical expert panel, conducting inpatient interviews, and developing survey items that assess the degree to which the team was able to communicate about what matters most to the patient. The Committee supported and accepted the developer's response to the comment submitted by AGS.

Open Forum

During the open forum discussion, Dr. Arif Kamal, standing committee member, proposed that the Committee draft a manuscript that would reflect on the work of the Geriatrics and Palliative Care Committee, including creating a new quality measurement framework to both assess existing measures in palliative care and inspire new measures to address measurement gaps. The manuscript would assess the current state of the Geriatrics and Palliative Care Committee measure portfolio, highlight areas where there are strengths, and identify areas where there are opportunities for improvement. Dr. Kamal noted that the audience for this report would primarily be measure developers and policy makers. The Committee was supportive of this initiative and several committee members expressed interest in participating in its development.

Topical Webinar Discussion

Andre Weldy, NQF director, presented an update on NQF's Serious Illness Care Initiative. The Serious Illness Care Initiative was a multi-year effort to advance serious illness-related quality measurement and engage and activate stakeholders around the importance of using quality measures as a tool to ensure the delivery of high-quality care to individuals with serious illness. Through a number of Initiative activities, including partnering with the Center to Advance Palliative Care on the Serious Illness Quality Alignment Hub, the Initiative put forth guidance on actions that can be taken to build a robust system of quality measurement for serious illness.. In May 2020, NQF released an Issue Brief titled *Opportunities for Advancing Quality Measurement in Community-Based Serious Illness Care*. Activities during the project that provided input to the Issue Brief included monthly Quality Measurement Committee meetings, environmental scans, strategy sessions, and multistakeholder review of the issue brief structure and content prior to submission.

Public Comment

No public or NQF member comments were provided.

Next Steps

NQF staff informed the Committee that CSAC will review measure #2651 during its November 28-29, 2020 meeting. Afterwards, the 30-day appeals period will be from November 23, 2020 to December 22, 2020.