



Geriatrics and Palliative Care Standing Committee Web Meeting

The National Quality Forum (NQF) convened a public web meeting for the Geriatrics and Palliative Care Standing Committee on October 3, 2018.

Welcome, Introductions, and Review of Web Meeting Objectives

Karen Johnson, NQF senior director, welcomed participants to the web meeting and reviewed the meeting objectives.

Important Ongoing Efforts in Quality and Measurement in the Field of Geriatrics and Palliative Care

Justin Sanders, MD, MSc, Ariadne Labs, presented an overview and update on efforts to improve on serious illness communication. The Serious Illness Care Program is a systems-level communication intervention program that aims to achieve positive changes in organizational culture and clinician practice in serious illness communication; build clinician skills and capacity to engage their patients in meaningful conversations about values and goals; and implement quality measures that support (and capture) improvement in communication, patient and clinician experience, and outcomes.

Tracy Schroepfer, PhD, University of Wisconsin-Madison, presented an update on the upcoming 4th revision of the Clinical Practice Guidelines for Quality Palliative Care. Dr. Schroepfer summarized updates and changes to the guidelines and described a timeline for publication and dissemination. This 4th edition of the guidelines retains the eight palliative care domains, but expands from the previous edition by including guidelines and criteria regarding comprehensive assessment, caregivers, care coordination, cultural inclusiveness, communication, and care transitions. Each domain also now includes sections on clinical and operational implications, essential skills, key research evidence, practice examples, and tools and resources. The guidelines also include results of a systematic review of the literature relevant to the criteria and guidelines. The new version of the guidelines will be released on October 31, 2018.

Arif Kamal, MD, MBA, MHS, Duke University, presented an overview and update on ongoing work to combine three existing palliative care registries. Dr. Kamal began by describing the three registries. The Center for Advanced Palliative Care, with support from the Hartford Foundation, developed a national palliative registry that collects organizational and structural data. The Palliative Care Quality Network, with support from the University of California at San Francisco, developed a quality measurement and improvement collaborative registry that provides important data to the national consensus projects. The Global Quality Palliative Care Alliance, with support from Duke University, brings stakeholders together and collects data that can be used for evidence building, quality measurement, and quality improvement. The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation has funded an initiative to bring the three registry groups together in the future with the goal of determining how the three registries can be combined. The aims of this new registry are to support and inform quality measurement, policy and data and discovery.

Rachel Roiland, PhD, RN, NQF director, presented a summary of NQF's Serious Illness Initiative, a three-year project funded by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation. This initiative seeks to advance the quality of care delivered to the seriously ill by (1) advancing serious illness-related quality measurement and the use of serious illness-related quality measures in public reporting and value-based payment programs; (2) preparing providers to care for the seriously ill and use serious illness-related quality measurement to ensure the delivery of high-quality care to this population; and (3) engaging and activating stakeholder groups to accelerate the alignment of incentives and quality measures in the field of serious illness. To achieve these objectives, NQF is partnering with the Center to Advance Palliative Care to establish the Serious Illness Quality Alignment Hub. Within the Hub, NQF manages the Serious Illness Quality Measurement Committee, a group charged with identifying quality measures for serious illness and developing recommendations to address the challenges and barriers that impede the advancement of quality measurement for serious illness. Additional activities occurring under the initiative include the development of a Serious Illness Care Playbook that will provide guidance to providers on how to care for seriously ill individuals and use quality measurement to ensure the delivery of high-quality care and a series of Serious Illness Stakeholder Summits that will seek to engage stakeholder groups from the serious illness community and disseminate the work of the initiative and other related projects. As the initiative progresses into its second year, Ms. Roiland will work with the NQF staff to ensure updates on the initiative and opportunities to contribute to its work are shared with the Geriatrics and Palliative Care Standing Committee.

Public Comment

Kirsten Reed, NQF project manager, opened the web meeting to allow for public comment. No public comments were received.

Next Steps

Kathryn Goodwin, NQF senior project manager, reviewed the next steps for the Committee, including the planned activities and timeline for the fall 2018 evaluation cycle.