

NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR HEALTHCARE DISPARITIES & CULTURAL COMPETENCY CONSENSUS STANDARDS STEERING COMMITTEE

NQF is seeking nominations for members of a Steering Committee for a new two-phase project to endorse measures that specifically address disparities across settings and populations, cultural competency, and identify disparities-sensitive measure sets and gaps within the NQF portfolio of endorsed standards. In Phase I, a commissioned paper will be developed to guide measure development for disparities and cultural competency and Phase II will include a consensus project to endorse disparity-sensitive performance measures.

BACKGROUND: To date, NQF has endorsed 35 disparity-sensitive measures applicable to the ambulatory care setting, 14 of which are the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Prevention Quality Indicators suitable for quality improvement at the community level. In 2009, under *A Comprehensive Framework and Preferred Practices for Measuring and Reporting Cultural Competency*, NQF endorsed a framework, definition, and a set of 45 preferred practices for measuring and reporting culturally competent care.

As the quality measurement enterprise has matured, NQF is seeking to further explore methodological concerns with measuring disparities and cultural competency, as well as endorsing cross-cutting, disparity-sensitive measures.

STEERING COMMITTEE: A multi-stakeholder Steering Committee will provide recommendations for performance measurement related to disparities and cultural competency, including methods and analytic approaches, evaluation criteria for classifying measures as disparities-sensitive, and identifying disparity-sensitive measures within the current NQF portfolio of measures (Phase I). The Steering Committee also will oversee the development of a draft consensus report that will include recommendations as to which measures should be endorsed as disparity-sensitive consensus standards (Phase II).

Expertise in all aspects related to disparities and cultural competency, including but not limited to experience with quality of care and racial/ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities, vulnerable populations, persons of low literacy or low socioeconomic status, measurement expertise, risk

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adjustment, public reporting, or experience with disparity-sensitive conditions is needed. Nominees should possess relevant knowledge and/or proficiency in quality measurement and/or clinical care of patients and procedures affecting such populations.

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.

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 meet during two in-person meetings in the Washington, DC area:

Introductory conference call: April 26, 2:00–4:00 pm ET

First In-person meeting: June 8–9 (tentative)

Second In-person meeting: February 2012 (tentative)

Additionally, the Steering Committee members may meet approximately three to four times by conference call for two hours each and be asked to review materials and provide feedback throughout the process. Follow-up e-mail communications or conference calls may also be needed.

CONSIDERATION AND SUBSTITUTION: Priority for Steering Committee membership will be given to nominations from NQF Members. Please note that nominations and Steering Committee membership are of individuals, not organizations, so “substitutions” of other individuals from an organization at meetings and conference calls are not permitted.

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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 introductory conference call and the in-person meetings;
- a 2-page letter of interest and a 100 word maximum biography, highlighting experience relevant to the expertise described above and involvement in candidate measure development;
- curriculum vitae or list of relevant experience (e.g., publications) *up to 20 pages*; and
- a completed [Non-Disclosure Agreement form](#).

Materials should be submitted only via e-mail to disparities@qualityforum.org with the subject line “Cultural Competency Nominations.”

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: All nominations *MUST* be submitted by **Friday, March 18, at 6:00 pm ET.**

QUESTIONS: If you have any questions, please contact, Nicole McElveen at 202-783-1300 or disparities@qualityforum.org. Thank you for your assistance.

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