

NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM

Moderator: Sheila Crawford
November 20, 2012
2:00 p.m. ET

Operator: Welcome to the conference. Please note today's call is being recorded. Please stand by.

Adeela Khan: Hi. Good afternoon, everyone. Thank you for calling in for the Infectious Disease Endorsement Maintenance Pre-Voting Webinar. We have our Co-Chair with us, Dr. Ed Septimus, and myself, Adeela Khan. I'm the project analyst for the project. We also have our Senior Director, Reva Winkler, and our project manager, Alexis Morgan.

So, we'll go ahead and start. The goal of this webinar is to present the project scope. We'll be going over the measures that were recommended for endorsement and some of the overarching issues that our committee identified in evaluating the measures. And finally, we'll be looking at the comments received and actions taken by the steering committee to address those comments.

We have a total of 34 measures, 29 of them were maintenance measures and five were new submissions. The measures addressed the following topic areas – acute bronchitis, central line infection, hepatitis C, HIV/AIDS, severe sepsis and septic shock, upper respiratory infection, and ventilation. All measures that were submitted were evaluated according to the NQF evaluation criteria; the Importance to Report and Measure, Scientific Acceptability of Measure Properties, Usability, and Feasibility.

Public and members (comment closed) on the 5th of November. The steering committee met via conference call to address the comments and respond to

any outstanding issues. The voting period opened yesterday with 14 measures recommended for endorsement. You can read more about the measure and our draft report and comment table, both of which are available on our project page.

This is the matrix of the measures recommended. We had a total of 34 measures in the project. Of those 34, seven were withdrawn by the developer. Of the remaining measures, 14 were recommended and two are still under consideration. That's 0500, the substance measure, and 0393, which is the chronic hepatitis C. Of the 11 measures that failed to move forward, six failed on the importance criteria, four on scientific acceptability, and one failed the overall vote.

These are some of the overarching issues that we saw in our evaluation of the measure – the disparities-sensitive measure, EHR measure testing, and evidence guidance. And I'm going to turn it over to Dr. Septimus and Dr. Brotman if they would both like to comment on those.

Ed Septimus: This is Ed Septimus. I think the papers and the comments that are available on site kind of cover this pretty well. We had really a vigorous discussion and had several follow-up calls and voting. There were some disparity-sensitive measures. There were some – with some of the measures the ability to capture this through an electronic medical record and in the evidence, of course, the evidence guidance is always the overriding issue. But I don't have anything else to add in the document that's already posted.

Adeela Khan: OK, great. Looking at the comments reviewed, we had 54 comments that can be summed up into six major themes – general issues applicable to the measures under consideration, additional areas for measure development or measurement gap, comments on measures specifications, utility of the medical visit, comments disagreeing with the measures recommended, and comments disagreeing with the measures not recommended. The committee responded – the comments were responded to by measure developers and the steering committee and can be seen on our comment table, which is on our project page.

Looking at the impact on the comments, three recommendations were included in – three recommendations were included in the report as areas for future measure development. And after review of the submitted comments, one measure the 0393, testing for chronic hepatitis C, confirmation of hepatitis C viremia, which was not originally recommended, it will undergo additional discussion and evaluation.

Currently, the measure is listed in the draft report as still under consideration by the committee, and the committee will rediscuss this measure on the December 5th call. And we'll include more information on that call on our project page as it becomes available. The steering committee did not wish to review any – to revisit any of their other recommendations for any other measures.

I'm looking at our next steps. NQF member voting will end on Monday, December 3rd at 6 P.M. Eastern. Voting results will then be forwarded to CSAC for discussion on the December 10th CSAC conference call. And the addendum report which addresses the two measures, 0500 and 0393, will be discussed by the committee on December 5th. A voting period will follow in December and then the results of that voting will be presented to the CSAC in January.

And does anyone have any questions?

(Raquel), if you want to open up the line to public and member comment?

Operator: At this time, in order to ask a question, please press star one.

There are no questions.

Adeela Khan: OK. That concludes the end of our pre-voting webinar. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact project staff and our contact information that is listed.

Ed Septimus: Everybody, have a great Thanksgiving.

Alexis Morgan: You too, Dr. Septimus.

Adeela Khan: Thank you.

Ed Septimus: We'll talk to you in December, I guess.

Adeela Khan: Yes.

Reva Winkler: Hi, Ed. This is Reva. Thanks very much.

Ed Septimus: Oh, sure. This is one of the easiest things we did.

Reva Winkler: Yes, I know. But we'll have the last ones to regroup with. Thank you.

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