

Welcome to Today's Meeting!

- Housekeeping reminders:

- ▣ The mute feature is on throughout the meeting. Please raise your hand and unmute yourself when called on
- ▣ Please lower your hand following your question/comment
- ▣ The system allows you to turn your video on/off throughout the event
- ▣ We encourage you to keep the video on throughout the event
- ▣ Feel free to use the chat feature to communicate with NQF staff

If you are experiencing technical issues, please contact the project team via chat on the virtual platform or at

RuralCoreSet@qualityforum.org



Rural Key Measures List Update

Web Meeting 4

July 14, 2022

This project is funded by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services under Task Order 75FCMC19F0007 – Leveraging Quality Measurement to Improve Rural Health.

Welcome, Review of Agenda and Meeting Objectives, and Roll Call

Web Meeting 4 Agenda



Rural Health Advisory Group Co-Chairs



Kimberly Rask, MD, PhD
Alliant Health Solutions



Keith Mueller, PhD
RUPRI Center for Rural Health
Policy Analysis

Rural Health Advisory Group Membership

Advisory Group Co-Chairs: Kimberly Rask, MD, PhD / Keith Mueller, PhD

Organizational Members (Voting)

- American Academy of Family Physicians
- American Academy of Physician Assistants
- American College of Emergency Physicians
- American Society of Health-System Pharmacists
- Lifepoint Health
- Michigan Center for Rural Health
- Minnesota Community Measurement
- National Association of Rural Health Clinics
- National Rural Health Association
- National Rural Letter Carriers' Association
- Truven Health Analytics LLC/IBM Watson Health Company
- UnitedHealth Group

Rural Health Advisory Group Membership (cont.)

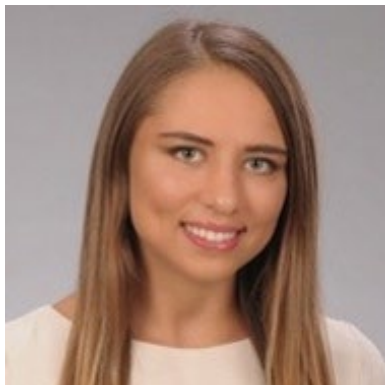
Individual Subject Matter Experts (Voting)

- Michael Fadden, MD
- Rev. Bruce Hanson
- Cody Mullen, PhD
- Jessica Schumacher, PhD, MS
- Ana Verzone, MS, APRN, DNP, CNM
- Holly Wolff, MHA

Federal Government Liaisons (Nonvoting)

- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)
- Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA)
- Indian Health Service (IHS)

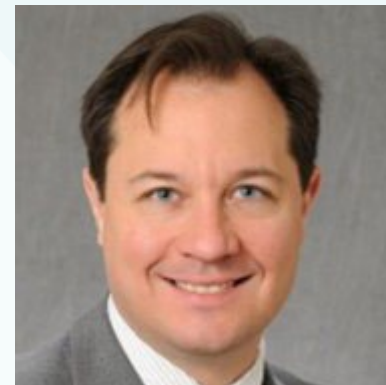
NQF Project Staff



Nicolette Mehas,
Senior Director



Ashlan Ruth,
Project
Manager



Jesse Pines,
Consultant



Amy Guo,
Manager



**Becky
Payne,**
Manager

CMS/HRSA Staff

- **Gequincia Polk**, Rural Health TO COR¹, Division of Program and Measurement Support/CMS
- **Helen Dollar-Maples**, Director, Division of Program and Measurement Support/CMS
- **Marsha Smith**, Medical Officer, Division of Program and Measurement Support/CMS
- **Girma Alemu**, Public Health Analyst, Office of Planning, Analysis and Evaluation/HRSA
- **Kristin Martinsen**, Director, Hospital State Division/HRSA
- **Colleen Morris**, Program Coordinator, Office for the Advancement of Telehealth/HRSA

1. Task Order Contracting Officer's Representative.

Meeting Objectives

Web Meeting 4 Objectives

- Review public and NQF member comments received on the draft recommendations report
- Discuss remaining updates and edits based on the Advisory Group's review of the draft recommendations report

True North Statement

The purpose of this project is to update the core set of rural-relevant core measures originally created by the Rural Health Advisory Group in 2017-2018, so that the included measures remain relevant to the most important issues that rural areas face today.

The updated core set will **inform** key stakeholders about the best measures available for use in a range of rural healthcare settings; **promote** alignment in the measures used to assess rural healthcare quality; and **encourage** development of new measures in priority gap areas.

The updated core set is not designed to make specific recommendations for measure use in current or future CMS programs.

Recommendations Report Public Comments

Overview of Public Comments Received

- Public commenting period was open from June 6 - June 27, 2022
- NQF received 11 comments from seven organizations and individuals
- Comments are grouped by:
 - ▣ Relevance of Measures to Rural Areas
 - ▣ Implementation Challenges
 - ▣ Gap Areas
 - ▣ Additional Comments

Relevance of Measures to Rural Areas

- Commenters shared that the list of measures was generally relevant to rural settings but suggested expanding the list or modifying measures to better address rural issues:
 - ▣ Hospice care measures
 - ▣ Health equity measures related to non-hospital settings
 - ▣ Measures relating severe disability with level of healthcare available
- Proposed response:
 - ▣ For purposes of Key Measures List, measures were considered as originally specified by developer
 - ▣ However, recommendations for future measure development (e.g., measures that capture hospice provider treatment in rural areas) can be captured in the “Gap Areas” section of the report

Implementation Challenges

- Lack of measures related to utilization of hospice and palliative care, timely referral to hospice, end-of-life preferences, etc. poses challenges for reaching patients who are seriously ill
- Proposed response:
 - ▣ These areas were previously identified as gap areas during the original creation of the Key Measures List in 2018
 - ▣ NQF will add a category to the “Gap Areas for Future Measure Development” section of the report to more clearly indicate this is a gap area that remains in the Key Measures List

Gap Areas

- Suggested gap areas from commenters included:
 - ▣ Measures addressing whether a person's disability became more severe due to lack of healthcare
 - ▣ Advance care planning and end-of-life measures
 - ▣ Care coordination at the time of discharge and timely, accurate referrals
 - ▣ Structural measures addressing provider's capability to provide timely services
 - ▣ Measures specifically addressing capacity and outcomes related to telehealth in rural areas
- Continue considering measures that address gaps for underserved rural populations
- Commenters also suggested that future iterations of the Key Measures List address a wider range of healthcare settings (e.g., more measures on post-acute care including hospice and palliative care)
- Proposed response:
 - ▣ NQF will add these topic areas to the "Gap Areas for Future Measure Development" section of the report as deemed appropriate by the Advisory Group.

Additional Comments – Measure-Specific

- Support for equity-related measures, specifically *Global Malnutrition Composite Score*, *Screening for Social Drivers of Health*, and *Screen Positive Rate for Social Drivers of Health*
- Suggestion to consider measures related to secondary prevention of cardiovascular disease given high prevalence and death rates within rural areas – e.g., *Statin Therapy for the Prevention and Treatment of Cardiovascular Disease*
 - ▣ **Discussion: Is the Advisory Group interested in adding this topic to the Gap Areas for future updates?**
- Additional measure-specific comments:
 - ▣ Opposition of #3597: Clinician Group Risk-standardized Hospital Admission Rates for Patients with Multiple Chronic Conditions
 - **Discussion: Should this measure remain in the Key Measures List, and/or should a note be included in the final report to indicate unintended consequences? Is the Advisory Group interested in adding a measure related to healthy days at home to the Gap Areas list for future consideration?**
 - ▣ Support for #0018: Controlling High Blood Pressure
 - **Discussion: Should comments on the blood pressure target for #0018 be incorporated into the Key Measures List, or should these remain in the public comment only?**

Additional Comments – Measure Prioritization Process

- Current weighted algorithm for reviewing measures for the key measures list update favors established measures over newly developed ones (NQF endorsement and use in federal programs as preferred characteristics); suggestion to update scoring algorithm accordingly
- Proposed response:
 - ▣ Provide additional context on the process for prioritizing measures, clarifying that newly developed measures were considered in priority topic areas where established measures were not available
 - ▣ Adjusted algorithm to be considered by Advisory Group in future updates of the Key Measures List

Discussion of Key Measures List Gaps

Gap Areas Identified in 2018

Access to care and timeliness of care

- #3590 *Continuity of Care After Receiving Hospital or Residential Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment*

Transitions of care

- #1789 *Hospital-Wide All-Cause Unplanned Readmission Measure*

Substance use, especially alcohol and opioid use

- #0028 *Preventive Care & Screening: Tobacco Use: Screening & Cessation Intervention*
- #1661 *SUB-1 Alcohol Use Screening*
- #2152 *Preventive Care & Screening: Unhealthy Alcohol Use: Screening & Brief Counseling*
- #3316e *Safe Use of Opioids - Concurrent Prescribing*
- #3590 *Continuity of Care After Receiving Hospital or Residential Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment*

Remaining gap areas: Cost

- Does the updated Key Measures list adequately address the following gap areas originally identified in 2018?
- If not, which of those topic areas remains a gap for rural healthcare quality measurement?

Gap Areas Identified in 2022

Infectious Disease

- #0500 *Severe Sepsis and Septic Shock: Management Bundle*
- #0684 *Percent of Residents With a Urinary Tract Infection [Long-Stay]*
- #0753 *American College of Surgeons –Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [ACS-CDC] Harmonized Procedure-Specific Surgical Site Infection [SSI] Outcome Measure*

Kidney Health / Emergency Care

- #3565 *Standardized Emergency Department Encounter Ratio [SEDR] for Dialysis Facilities*

Dementia

- #2872e *Dementia: Cognitive Assessment*

Health Equity

- #3592e *Global Malnutrition Composite Score*
- *Hospital Commitment to Health Equity*
- *Screening for Social Drivers of Health*
- *Screen Positive Rate for Social Drivers of Health*

Remaining gap areas: Intentional and Unintentional Injuries, Telehealth-Relevant, Cancer Screening, Infectious Disease (HIV and COVID-19)

- Does the updated Key Measures list adequately address the following gap areas newly identified in 2022?
- If not, which of those topic areas remains a gap for rural healthcare quality measurement?



Gaps Discussion

- Are there any other topic areas that the Advisory Group should consider adding to the list of gaps for future measurement?

Discussion of Key Measures List Use

Advancing Rural Health Quality Measurement

- Does the Key Measures List effectively organize the included measures? If not, how can the measures be presented most effectively to end users?
- What future activities would be most helpful to support increased use of measures in the Key Measures List?
 - ▣ Preferred cadence for future maintenance of the Key Measures List?
 - ▣ Types of guidance that would be helpful for using the Key Measures List in specific settings?
- Which topic areas are of most interest to the Advisory Group to continue advancing measurement in rural areas?

Opportunity for Public Comment

Next Steps and Closing Remarks

Next Steps for the Rural Health Advisory Group

- NQF Staff will incorporate today's feedback in the Recommendations Report
 - If you have any additional comments, please reach out to the team at RuralCoreSet@qualityforum.org
- The final Recommendations Report will be posted on the [project page](#) on **August 10, 2022**.



Contact Information

- Email: RuralCoreSet@qualityforum.org
- NQF phone: 202-783-1300
- [Project Page](#)

THANK YOU.

NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM

<https://www.qualityforum.org>