



MAP Rural Health Workgroup Web Meeting 1

The National Quality Forum (NQF) convened a public web meeting for the MAP Rural Health Workgroup on November 25, 2019.

Welcome, Introductions, and Review of Web Meeting Objectives

Suzanne Theberge, NQF Senior Project Manager, welcomed participants to the web meeting. She provided opening remarks and reviewed the following meeting objectives:

- Brief review of MAP and the MAP Rural Health Workgroup (RHWG) activities
- New project overview
- Overview of the 2019 MAP Rural Health Technical Expert Panel (TEP) report
- Public and member comment
- Next steps

Review of MAP and the MAP RHWG Activities

Ms. Theberge presented an overview of the MAP process and its overarching goal to provide input on the selection of quality measures for public reporting, payment, and other programs. She then provided a brief overview of MAP RHWG activities to date, including the identification of a core set of best available rural-relevant measures; feedback on the Measures Under Consideration (MUC) list; and the 2019 TEP work in addressing the low case-volume challenge faced by rural providers.

New Project Overview

Ms. Theberge then provided an overview of the new project's activities that will take place over a 35-month period. Those activities include three subtasks outlined below:

- Task 1: Identify high-priority rural-relevant measures with minimum case requirements for future testing using the Rural Health TEP's recommended statistical approaches (current task)
 - 12-month duration
- Task 2: Review, update, and potentially expand the core set of rural-relevant measures
 - 10-month duration
- Task 3: Review, update, and potentially expand the measurement framework for telehealth
 - 13-month duration

Overview of the 2019 MAP Rural Health TEP Report

Karen Johnson, NQF Senior Director, reviewed the MAP Rural Health TEP's work in developing recommendations on how to approach healthcare performance measurement when case-volume is low. She described how the TEP focused on the "denominator" issue when developing these recommendations. Ms. Johnson presented the recommendations made by the TEP, which included:

- Borrowing strength to the extent possible
- Recognizing the need for robust statistical expertise and computational power

- Reporting exceedance probabilities
- Recognizing the potential for downstream unintended consequences

For the borrowing strength approach, Ms. Johnson clarified that knowing the goals of the specific program is crucial to understanding if/how the borrowing strength approach is suitable.

One Workgroup member suggested contextualizing the use of current measures within the rural setting and examining what measures are being retired now and in the future. Another Workgroup member suggested that selecting the correct measures in the first place will mitigate the need for low case-volume adjustment. A member suggested that in future discussions, the Workgroup should consider stakeholder buy-in when developing recommendations. Finally, Workgroup members noted that consumers may not readily accept the idea of combining multiple years of data or combining data from similar facilities.

Public and Member Comment

Ameera Chaudhry, NQF Project Analyst, opened the web meeting to allow for public and member comment. No comments were offered.

Next Steps

Ms. Chaudhry notified the Workgroup of upcoming activities, including:

- The completion of the first environmental scan draft report in January 2020;
- Web meeting 2 on February 5, 2020;
- The public commenting period on the environmental scan report from February 12 – March 12, 2020; and
- Web Meeting 3 on March 4, 2020.