THE NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM

MEASURE PRIORITIZATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SUMMARY OF WEB MEETING #3: MEASURE DEVELOPMENT AND ENDORSEMENT AGENDA

A web meeting of the Measure Prioritization Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, September 23, 2010. The purpose of the meeting was to educate NQF members and the public about the project given the launch of the comment period on September 20, 2010.

For an online archive of the web meeting please visit:
http://www.MyEventPartner.com/QualityForum/EF59DB8983

Committee Members Present:

George J. Isham, MD, MS (Co-Chair)
Ellen Stovall (Co-Chair)
Bobbie Berkowitz, PhD, RN, CNAA, FAAN
John F. Derr, RPh
Frederick L. Grover, MD
Fred Jacobs, MD, JD
Alyssa Keefe, MPP

NQF Staff Present:

Tom Valuck, MD, JD
Karen Adams, PhD
Nalini Pande, JD
Edison Machado, MD, MBA
Bonnie Zell, MD, MPH
Nicole McElveen, MPH
Sarah Lash, MS

Others Present: Approximately 65 public participants.

Objectives

This was the third and final web meeting in a series of in-person and web meetings for the Measure Development and Endorsement Agenda Project. The event was intended to:

- Provide an overview of the charge of the Measure Prioritization Advisory Committee;
- Provide context and explain the Committee's work
- Prepare the public and member audience for the comment period; and
- Set up next steps.

Background and Context Setting

Ellen Stovall, Advisory Committee Co-Chair, opened the call by thanking the members of the Committee for their work on the project and providing an overview of the information to be covered during the web meeting. The agenda included:

- Project overview;
- Discussion of measure gap streams;
- Discussion of cross-check streams;
- Presentation of the prioritized, consolidated list of measure gap domains and sub-domains;
- An open question and answer session; and
- Next steps.

Nalini Pande, Senior Director, Strategic Partnerships at NQF, provided an overview of NQF's various projects, including the Measure Development and Endorsement Agenda project, and how these projects fit within the larger quality enterprise. She then explained that the charge of the Measure Prioritization Advisory Committee is to determine priorities for a measure development agenda to address identified gaps in endorsed measures. Key objectives of the project include:

- Alignment with the development of a national strategy for health care performance measurement;
- Construction of a clear agenda to encourage direction of resources to high leverage areas;
- Continuous scan of the environment to identify and make mid-course corrections, as necessary; and
- Alignment of this work with payment reform in the context of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and meaningful use in the context of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) since both of these laws require a robust set of performance measures to serve a variety of needs: meaningful use measures, various new and emerging payment systems, and expanded public reporting.

Ms. Pande presented a graphic of the different inputs of the project, noting the Committee's work thus far in identifying and prioritizing measurement gaps in Medicare, Child Health, and Population Health. She next provided additional context, and the timeline for key deliverables. Ms. Pande concluded her remarks by noting that the project is currently in the public comment period. She highlighted the four areas in which NQF is currently seeking public comment:

- General comments on the Measure Development and Endorsement Agenda project;
- Comments on the prioritized, consolidated list of measure gap areas and key issues;
- Comments on the prioritization of child health conditions, child health measure gap areas, and key issues; and,
- Comments on the prioritization of population health measure gap areas and key issues.

Measure Gap Streams

Ms. Pande reviewed the key topic areas and work streams of the Measurement Development and Endorsement Agenda Project. She noted that the Committee focused on the prioritization of:

- Medicare conditions and gaps,
- Child health conditions, risks and gaps; and
- Population health gaps.

She presented the results of the Committee's prioritization of the Medicare high-impact conditions, measure gap domains and sub-domains, and key issues that were raised during the process. She then presented the results of the Committee's rankings of child health conditions, measure gap domains and sub-domains, and key issues. Finally, she presented the population health measure gap domains, sub-domains, and key issues. Further, Ms. Pande noted that the Committee's goal for the project was to prioritize a consolidated list of measure gap domains and sub-domains. The results of the Committee's work in the three measure gap streams of Medicare, child health, and population health were consolidated into a final list of measure gap domains and sub-domains.

Cross-Check Streams

The next section of the webinar focused on cross-check streams or inputs to the Measure Development and Endorsement Agenda project. These cross-check streams included:

- Integrated Framework for Performance Measurement
  (National Priorities Partnership and Patient-Focused Episode of Care)
- HIT Meaningful Use Gaps
- Disparities-Sensitive Domains and Sub-Domains
- Gaps Identified by the NQF Endorsement Process
- Measure Developer Priorities

Karen Adams, Vice President for National Priorities at NQF, opened this section of the agenda with an overview of the Integrated Framework for Performance Measurement. The Integrated Framework is comprised of the National Priorities Partnership (NPP) and the patient-focused episode of care framework. She described the Integrated Framework as a continuum of care from the population at risk, through evaluation and initial management, to follow-up care. The six NPP priorities are highlighted at specific phases of the patient-focused episode of care. These priorities are: patient and family engagement, population health, safety, care coordination, palliative care and end-of-life care, and overuse. Ms. Adams also noted that the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has recently put forth a

preliminary report on the national health care quality strategy for public input. Key goals of the HHS strategy (i.e. better care, affordable care, and healthy communities) dovetail with both the NPP priorities and a number of the Measure Development and Endorsement Agenda domains and sub-domains.

Dr. Adams next presented another key input to the Measure Development and Endorsement Agenda project, HIT meaningful use gaps. These gaps were identified from a project conducted by NQF staff for the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC), HHS. The ONC project focused on the identification of potential measures for 2013. The team synthesized input from federal agencies, the Gretzky Group, and findings from an environmental scan of electronic health record(EHR)-based measures available from leading public and private health systems.

As part of the identification and selection process, measure selection criteria were created. These criteria included:

- State of readiness;
- HIT-sensitive;
- Promotes parsimony;
- Preventable burden;
- Supports health risk status and outcomes assessment; and
- Enables longitudinal measurement.

Based on the environmental scan and the use of tracer conditions, several measurement gaps were identified: population health, medication safety (e.g., emergency departments [EDs]), adherence to medications (patient self-report), use of generic medications, reduce cost of redundant testing, and general health status (and delta measures).

Nicole McElveen, Senior Program Manager in Performance Measures at NQF, discussed the cross-check stream of health disparities. She highlighted disparity-sensitive criteria. She then presented specific measure gap domains and sub-domains from the Measure Development and Endorsement Agenda consolidated list that were found to be disparities-sensitive. The Committee considered this information in its prioritization work.

Ms. Pande provided an overview of the measure gaps identified through the NQF endorsement process in child health, population health and disparities. The source for identification of gaps was a review of over 20 NQF Consensus Development Process (CDP) reports. As NQF performs its various calls for measures, each Steering Committee identifies measure gaps that emerge from the consensus process. These gaps are highlighted in the CDP reports.

Finally, Ms. Pande summarized measure developers' priorities that had been presented to the Committee at its July 2010 web meeting. Ms. Pande summarized the priorities of the Agency for

Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), The Joint Commission, National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA), and the Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement (PCPI) as convened by the American Medical Association (AMA). This overview was based on measure developer presentations from the Committee's July web meeting. Key priorities included:

- Care Coordination
    - In the Context of Emerging Care Models (e.g., Accountable Care Organizations, Medical Home, etc)
- Efficiency/Overuse
    - Appropriateness
    - Resource Use
    - Avoidable Admissions/Readmissions/ED Visits
- Child Health
    - Prevention Broadly
    - Racial, Ethnic, and socioeconomic status (SES) Disparities
- Safety
    - HACs/HAIs
    - Medication Reconciliation

Additional considerations and key issues identified by the measure developers included:

- Comprehensive measure "dashboards;"
- Composite measures that address quality and cost;
- E-measure specifications for EHRs/meaningful use; and
- Measures that address multiple chronic conditions.

Identification and Prioritization of Consolidated List of Measure Gaps

Ms. Pande presented the Committee's prioritization of the consolidated list of measure gaps. The Committee's voting was based on the following dimensions:

- Impact and burden (including prevalence and cost);
- Improvability and variability (including actionability and effectiveness); and
- Feasibility (including data source and burden of measurement).

The measure gap domains receiving the highest votes were Resource Use/Overuse and Care Coordination & Management. The measure gap sub-domains receiving the highest votes were Appropriateness/Efficiency and Shared Decision Making. Ms. Pande discussed the key issues that the Committee raised during the voting process. She noted that the themes that emerged from the Committee's discussions and deliberations are important complements to the lists themselves.

Key Issues from Public Participants

Audience members raised several key issues over the course of the webinar, including:

- Issues regarding how to incorporate behavior and lifestyle changes into quality measures;

- Evidence to date on the HIT-sensitivity of NQF endorsed measures;

- Role of the IHI Triple Aim in the project;

- Importance of palliative care despite its low number of votes;

- CMS' priority clinical conditions (as shown on slide 114 of the PowerPoint presentation from the September 23, 2010 Advisory Committee meeting materials); and

- NQF's work to define the structure and format for e-measures and the related guidance to measure developers, including harmonization around the development of e-measures.

Next Steps

Tom Valuck, Senior Vice President, Strategic Partnerships, at NQF, provided closing comments. He thanked the co-chairs and Committee members for their commitment to the project and the audience for their participation. Dr. Valuck reiterated that this work focused on gap prioritization in order to optimize NQF's current portfolio of performance measures and highlighted how this work fit within the larger quality enterprise.

Ms. Stovall provided an overview regarding the next steps for the project. This was the final meeting of the Measure Prioritization Advisory Committee for the current phase of the project. Ms. Stovall reminded participants that the comment period, which began September 20, 2010, closes on Thursday, October 19, 2010. To access the form for public comment and additional background materials, please visit the Measure Development and Endorsement Agenda project website. After the public comment period closes, NQF staff will draft a comprehensive report detailing the prioritized list of gap domains and sub-domains—as well as the Committee's key issues, themes that arise during the public comment period, and additional details about the Committee's process. This report will be provided to HHS as the project's final deliverable.