

NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS TO STEERING COMMITTEE Multiple Chronic Conditions Measurement Framework

NQF is seeking nominations for members of a Steering Committee for a new project to develop a Multiple Chronic Conditions Measurement Framework. The Framework will serve as a foundation for the future endorsement of performance measures that explicitly address multiple chronic conditions (MCCs).

BACKGROUND: Patients with MCCs represent a growing segment of the population and currently include over one quarter of the U.S. population.^{1,2} Healthcare costs are higher for patients with MCCs and functional abilities decline sooner, with a concomitant decline in quality of life. NQF-endorsed® measures that cross clinical care settings and are meaningful to patients are particularly germane to this population.

Despite the growing prevalence of individuals with MCCs, these patients are largely not addressed by available quality measures. Clinical trials exclude patients with MCCs as they are designed to study effects of interventions for single conditions in otherwise healthy populations. The results from clinical trials then populate clinical practice guidelines, yielding evidence-based guidance tailored to condition-by-condition application. This guidance, in turn, underlies the construction of condition-by-condition quality measures.

Uses of condition-specific performance measures, such as for pay-for-performance programs, public reporting, or quality improvement, may result in poor quality care and harm to patients with MCCs and in misleading feedback for their physicians. For example, Tinetti, et al., noted that condition-specific guidelines would call for a 70-year-old woman with the common MCCs of hypertension, myocardial infarction, depression, diabetes, and osteoporosis to perhaps take an aspirin, an ACE inhibitor, a beta-blocker, a bisphosphonate, calcium, a diuretic, a selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor, a statin, a sulfonyleurea drug, a thiazolidinedione, and vitamin D.³ While each medication may be indicated to treat her individual conditions, the woman's overall health might not be best served by this extensive regimen. Other examples would be pushing a frail elderly osteoporotic patient's hemoglobin A1c or blood pressure too low in an effort to meet a performance threshold, but causing hypoglycemia and dizziness and risking a fall and possible hip fracture. The goal of this project will be to develop a measurement framework to mitigate these kinds of unintended harms of performance measurement applied to patients with MCCs.

STEERING COMMITTEE: A Steering Committee will develop a Multiple Chronic Conditions Measurement Framework report. This measurement framework will establish the definitions, domains, and guiding principles that are instrumental for measuring and reporting the efficiency – quality and cost – of care for patients with MCCs. The Steering Committee will also be charged with reviewing a commissioned white paper, written by a consultant, to address any pertinent issues for the author to include in a final draft.

¹ <http://www.hhs.gov/oph/initiatives/mcc/index.html>. Last accessed June 2010.

² Thorpe KE and Howard DH. The Rise In Spending Among Medicare Beneficiaries: The Role Of Chronic Disease Prevalence And Changes In Treatment Intensity. *Health Affairs*. September/October 2006; 25(5): w378-w388.

³ Tinetti ME, Bogardus, Jr. ST, and Agostini JV. Potential Pitfalls of Disease-specific Guidelines for Patients with Multiple Conditions. *NEJM*. December 30, 2004; 351(27): 2870-2874.

NOMINATIONS DUE BY Wednesday, July 14, 2010 6:00 PM ET

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NQF is seeking nominations from various stakeholder perspectives. Specifically, individuals with experience in performance measurement and MCCs are encouraged to submit nominations.

Steering Committee members should not have a vested interest in potential 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 in person twice for one-and-a-half-day meetings, tentatively scheduled for November 2010 and February 2011 in Washington, DC.* Additionally, Steering Committee members will meet three times by conference call for up to two hours each. Follow-up e-mail communications or conference calls may be needed.

CONSIDERATION AND SUBSTITUTION: Priority will be given to nominations from NQF Members. Please note that nominations are to an individual, not an organization, so “substitutions” of other individuals from an organization at in-person meetings and on conference calls are not permitted.

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

Materials should be submitted only via e-mail to MCCs@qualityforum.org with the subject line “Steering Committee Nominations.”

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: All nominations MUST be submitted by **6:00 pm ET Wednesday, July 14.**

QUESTIONS: If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Podulka, MPAff at 202.783.1300 or MCCs@qualityforum.org. Thank you for your assistance!

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