

# National Consensus Standards for Neurology

**Standing Committee Orientation** 

Debjani Mukherjee John Bernot Christy Skipper Yetunde Ogungbemi

January 31, 2018

## Welcome

### **Project Team**

- Debjani Mukherjee, Senior Director
- John Bernot, Senior Director
- Christy Skipper, Project Manager
- Yetunde Ogungbemi, Project Manager

## Agenda for the Call

- Standing Committee introductions
- Overview of NQF, the Consensus Development Process, and Roles of the Standing Committee, co-chairs, NQF staff
- Overview of NQF's portfolio of Neurology measures
- Review of project activities and timelines
- Overview of NQF's measure evaluation criteria
- Overview of social risk
- SharePoint tutorial
- Measure Worksheet example
- Next steps

### **Neurology Standing Committee**

- David Knowlton, MA (Co-Chair)
- David Tirschwell, MD, MSc (Co-Chair)
- David Andrews
- Jocelyn Bautista, MD
- Ketan Bulsara, MD
- James Burke, MD
- Michelle Camicia, MSN, RN, PHN, CRRN, CCM, FAHA
- Valerie Cotter, DrNP, AGPCNP-BC, FAANP
- Bradford Dickerson, MD, MMSC

- Dorothy Edwards, PhD
- Reuven Ferziger, MD
- David Hackney, MD
- Charlotte Jones, MD, PhD, MSPH
- Michael Kaplitt, MD, PhD
- Ronald Koenig, MD
- Melody Ryan, PharmD, MPH
- Peter Schmidt, PhD
- Jane Sullivan, PT, DHS, MS
- Kelly Sullivan, PhD
- Ross Zafonte, DO

# Overview of NQF, the CDP, and Roles

## The National Quality Forum: A Unique Role

Established in 1999, NQF is a non-profit, non-partisan, membership-based organization that brings together public and private sector stakeholders to reach consensus on healthcare performance measurement. The goal is to make healthcare in the U.S. better, safer, and more affordable.

**Mission**: To lead national collaboration to improve health and healthcare quality through measurement

- An Essential Forum
- Gold Standard for Quality Measurement
- Leadership in Quality

### NQF Activities in Multiple Measurement Areas

#### Performance Measure Endorsement

- 600+ NQF-endorsed measures across multiple clinical areas
- 15 empaneled standing expert committees

#### Measure Applications Partnership (MAP)

Advises HHS on selecting measures for 20+ federal programs

#### National Quality Partners

- Convenes stakeholders around critical health and healthcare topics
- Spurs action: recent examples include antibiotic stewardship, advanced illness care, shared decision-making, and opioid stewardship

#### Measurement Science

- Convenes private and public sector leaders to reach consensus on complex issues in healthcare performance measurement
  - » Examples include HCBS, rural issues, telehealth, interoperability, attribution, riskadjustment for social risk factors, diagnostic accuracy, disparities

#### Measure Incubator

 Facilitates efficient measure development and testing through collaboration and partnership

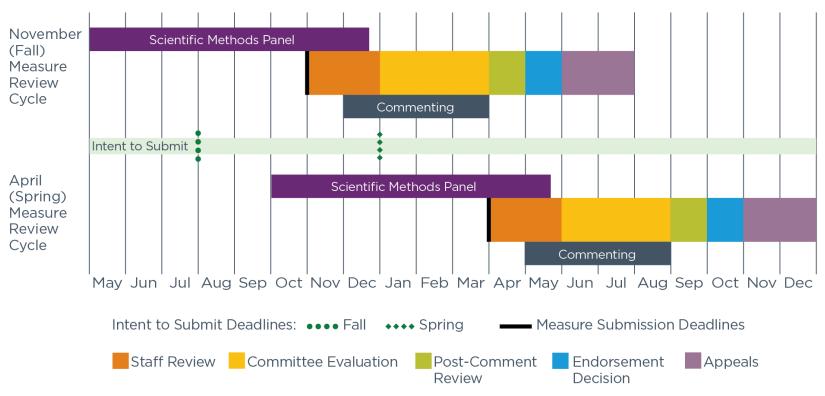
## NQF Consensus Development Process (CDP) 6 Steps for Measure Endorsement

- Intent to Submit
- Call for Nominations
- Measure Evaluation
  - New structure/process
  - Newly formed NQF Scientific Methods Panel
  - Measure Evaluation Technical Report
- Public Commenting Period with Member Support
- Measure Endorsement
- Measure Appeals

## Measure Review: Two Cycles Per Year

#### Consensus Development Process:

Two Cycles Every Contract Year



10

#### **15 New Measure Review Topical Areas**

	All Cause Admission/ Readmissions	Behavioral Health			All Cause	Behavioral	
Cancer	Cardiovascular	Care Coordination	Infectious Disease	Admission/ Readmissions	Health & Substance Use	Cancer	
Cost and Resource Use	Endocrine	Eyes, Ears, Nose and Throat Conditions	Palliative and End-of Life Care		Cardiovascular	Cost and Efficiency <sup>A</sup>	Geriatric and Palliative Care <sup>B</sup>
Gastrointestinal	Genitourinary	Health and Well Being	Musculoskeletal		Neurology	Patient Experience & Function	Patient Safety <sup>c</sup>
Neurology	Patient Safety	Pediatrics	Perinatal		Pediatrics	Perinatal and Women's Health	Prevention and Population Health <sup>D</sup>
Person and Family- Centered Care	Pulmonary and Critical Care	Renal	Surgery		Primary Care and Chronic Illness	Renal	Surgery

A Cost & Efficiency will include efficiency-focused measures from other domains

Denotes expanded topic area

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>B</sup> Geriatric & Palliative Care includes pain-focused measures from other domains

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>C</sup> Patient Safety will include acute infectious disease and critical measures

D Prevention and Population Health is formerly Health and Well Being

# Role of the Standing Committee General Duties

- Act as a proxy for the NQF multistakeholder membership
- Serve 2-year or 3-year terms
- Work with NQF staff to achieve the goals of the project
- Evaluate candidate measures against the measure evaluation criteria
- Respond to comments submitted during the review period
- Respond to any directions from the CSAC

## Role of the Standing Committee *Measure Evaluation Duties*

- All members evaluate ALL measures
- Evaluate measures against each criterion
  - Indicate the extent to which each criterion is met and rationale for the rating
- Make recommendations to the NQF membership for endorsement
- Oversee Neurology portfolio of measures
  - Promote alignment and harmonization
  - Identify gaps

### Role of the Standing Committee Co-Chairs

- Co-facilitate Standing Committee (SC) meetings
- Work with NQF staff to achieve the goals of the project
- Assist NQF in anticipating questions and identifying additional information that may be useful to the SC
- Keep SC on track to meet goals of the project without hindering critical discussion/input
- Represent the SC at CSAC meetings
- Participate as a SC member

#### Role of NQF Staff

- NQF project staff works with SC to achieve the goals of the project and ensure adherence to the consensus development process:
  - Organize and staff SC meetings and conference calls
  - Guide the SC through the steps of the CDP and advise on NQF policy and procedures
  - Review measure submissions and prepare materials for Committee review
  - Draft and edit reports for SC review
  - Ensure communication among all project participants (including SC and measure developers)
  - Facilitate necessary communication and collaboration between different NQF projects

15

# Role of NQF Staff Communication

- Respond to NQF member or public queries about the project
- Maintain documentation of project activities
- Post project information to NQF's website
- Work with measure developers to provide necessary information and communication for the SC to fairly and adequately evaluate measures for endorsement
- Publish final project report

#### Role of Methods Panel

- Scientific Methods Panel created to ensure higher-level and more consistent reviews of the scientific acceptability of measures
- The Methods Panel is charged with:
  - Conducting evaluation of complex measures for the Scientific Acceptability criterion, with a focus on reliability and validity analyses and results
  - Serve in advisory capacity to NQF on methodologic issues, including those related to measure testing, risk adjustment, and measurement approaches.
- The method panel review will help inform the standing committee's endorsement decision. The panel will not render endorsement recommendations.

17

## NQF Consensus Development Process (CDP) Measure Evaluation

#### Complex Measures

- Outcome measures, including intermediate clinical outcomes
- Instrument-based measures (e.g., PRO-PMs)
- Cost/resource use measures
- Efficiency measures (those combining concepts of resource use and quality)
- Composite measures

Noncomplex Measures

- Process measures
- Structural measures
- Previously endorsed complex measures with no changes/updates to the specifications or testing

## Role of the Expert Reviewers

- In 2017, NQF executed a CDP redesign that resulted in restructuring and reducing the number of topical areas as well as a bi-annual measure review process
- Given these changes, there is a need to retain a diverse, yet specific expertise within an "expert reviewer pool" to support longer and continuous engagement from standing committees

## Role of the Expert Reviewers

- The expert reviewer pool serves as an adjunct to NQF standing committees to ensure broad representation and provide technical expertise when needed
- Expert reviewers will provide expertise as needed to review measures submitted for endorsement consideration by:
  - Replacing an inactive committee member;
  - Replacing a committee members whose term has ended; or
  - Providing expertise that is not currently represented on the committee.
- Expert reviewers may also:
  - Provide comments and feedback on measures throughout the measure review process
  - Participate in strategic discussions in the event no measures are submitted for endorsement consideration

## Questions?

## Overview of NQF's Neurology Portfolio

## Neurology Portfolio of Measures

- This project will evaluate measures related to neurological conditions that can be used for accountability and public reporting for all populations and in all settings of care.
- NQF solicits new measures for possible endorsement
- NQF currently has more than 16 endorsed measures within the area of Neurology. Endorsed measures undergo periodic evaluation to maintain endorsement – "maintenance".
- There are no measures being evaluated for the Fall 2017 cycle or the Spring 2018 cycle.

#### Neurology Portfolio of NQF-Endorsed Measures

#### **Stroke**

0437 STK 04: Thrombolytic Therapy

0507 Diagnostic Imaging Stenosis Measurement in Carotid Imaging Reports

0661 Head CT or MRI Scan Results for Acute Ischemic Stroke or Hemorrhagic Stroke Patients who Received Head CT or MRI Scan Interpretation within 45 minutes of ED Arrival

1952 Time to Intravenous Thrombolytic Therapy

2863 CSTK 06: Nimodipine Treatment Administered

2864 CSTK 01: National Institutes of Health Stroke Scale (NIHSS) Score Performed for Ischemic Stroke Patients

2866 CSTK 03: Severity Measurement Performed for Subarachnoid Hemorrhage and Intracerebral Hemorrhage Patients

2877 Hybrid, Hospital 30-day, all-cause, risk-standardized mortality rate (RSMR) following acute ischemic stroke with risk adjustment for stroke severity

#### **Dementia**

2872 Dementia – Cognitive Assessment (approved for trial use)

2111 Antipsychotic Use in Persons with Dementia

## Neurology Portfolio of NQF-endorsed measures (Reserve Status)

#### **Stroke**

0434 STK 01: Venous Thromboembolism (VTE) Prophylaxis

0435 STK 02: Discharged on Antithrombotic Therapy

0436 STK 03: Anticoagulation Therapy for Atrial Fibrillation/Flutter

0438 STK 05: Antithrombotic Therapy By End of Hospital Day Two

0439 STK 06: Discharged on Statin Medication

0441 STK 10: Assessed for Rehabilitation

#### Measures Withdrawn from Consideration

- 0668 Appropriate Head CT Imaging in Adults with Mild Traumatic Brain Injury (American College of Emergency Physicians)
  - Did not submit due to resource constraints
- 0755 Appropriate Cervical Spine Radiography and CT Imaging in Trauma (American College of Emergency Physicians)
  - Did not submit due to resource constraints

### **Activities and Timeline**

Meeting	Date/Time		
Orientation Call & QA Call	Wednesday, January 31, 2-4 PM ET		
Web Meeting #2	Monday, April 16, 12-2 PM ET		

## Questions?

# Measure Evaluation Criteria Overview

#### NQF Measure Evaluation Criteria for Endorsement

NQF endorses measures for accountability applications (public reporting, payment programs, accreditation, etc.) as well as quality improvement.

- Standardized evaluation criteria
- Criteria have evolved over time in response to stakeholder feedback
- The quality measurement enterprise is constantly growing and evolving – greater experience, lessons learned, expanding demands for measures – the criteria evolve to reflect the ongoing needs of stakeholders

30

## Major Endorsement Criteria (page 28)

- Importance to measure and report: Goal is to measure those aspects with greatest potential of driving improvements; if not important, the other criteria are less meaningful (must-pass)
- Reliability and Validity-scientific acceptability of measure properties: Goal is to make valid conclusions about quality; if not reliable and valid, there is risk of improper interpretation (must-pass)
- Feasibility: Goal is to, ideally, cause as little burden as possible; if not feasible, consider alternative approaches
- Usability and Use: Goal is to use for decisions related to accountability and improvement; if not useful, probably do not care if feasible
- Comparison to related or competing measures

# Criterion #1: Importance to Measure and Report (page 30-39)

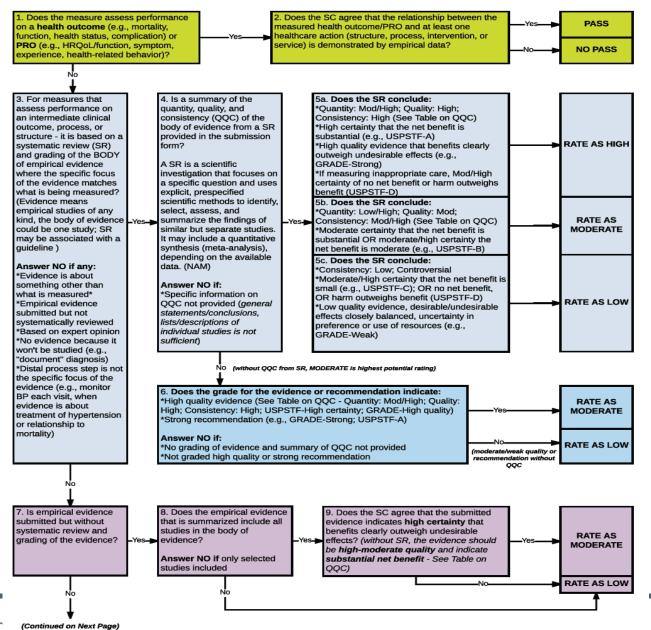
- 1. Importance to measure and report Extent to which the specific measure focus is evidence-based and important to making significant gains in healthcare quality where there is variation in or overall less-than-optimal performance.
  - 1a. Evidence: the measure focus is evidence-based
  - **1b.** Opportunity for Improvement: demonstration of quality problems and opportunity for improvement, i.e., data demonstrating considerable variation, or overall less-than-optimal performance, in the quality of care across providers; and/or disparities in care across population groups
  - 1c. Quality construct and rationale (composite measures only)

### Subcriteron 1a: Evidence (page 31-37)

Please Note —the [[orange]] text reflects recent changes

- Outcome measures
  - [[Empirical data]] demonstrate a relationship between the outcome and at least one healthcare structure, process, intervention, or service. [[If not available, wide variation in performance]] can be used as evidence, assuming the data are from a robust number of providers and results are not subject to systematic bias.
- Structure, process, intermediate outcome measures
  - The quantity, quality, and consistency of the body of evidence underlying the measure should demonstrate that the measure focuses on those aspects of care known to influence desired patient outcomes
    - » Empirical studies (expert opinion is not evidence)
    - » Systematic review and grading of evidence
      - Clinical Practice Guidelines variable in approach to evidence review
- [[For measures derived from patient (or family/parent/etc.) report]]
  - Evidence should demonstrate that the target population values the measured outcome, process, or structure and finds it meaningful.
  - Current requirements for structure and process measures [[also apply to patient-reported structure/process measures]].

### Rating Evidence: Algorithm #1 - page 34



# Criterion #1: Importance to measure and report

Criteria emphasis is different for new vs. maintenance measures

New measures	Maintenance measures
<ul> <li>Evidence – Quantity, quality, consistency (QQC)</li> <li>Established link for process measures with outcomes</li> </ul>	DECREASED EMPHASIS: Require measure developer to attest evidence is unchanged evidence from last evaluation; Standing Committee to affirm no change in evidence  IF changes in evidence, the Committee will evaluate as for new measures
<ul> <li>Gap – opportunity for improvement, variation, quality of care across providers</li> </ul>	INCREASED EMPHASIS: data on current performance, gap in care and variation

35

# Criterion #2: Reliability and Validity—Scientific Acceptability of Measure Properties (page 39 -48)

Extent to which the measure, <u>as specified</u>, produces consistent (reliable) and credible (valid) results about the quality of health care delivery

#### 2a. Reliability (must-pass)

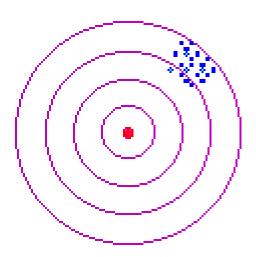
- 2a1. Precise specifications including exclusions
- 2a2. Reliability testing—data elements or measure score

#### 2b. Validity (must-pass)

- 2b1. Validity testing—data elements or measure score
- 2b2. Justification of exclusions—relates to evidence
- 2b3. Risk adjustment—typically for outcome/cost/resource use
- 2b4. Identification of differences in performance
- 2b5. Comparability of data sources/methods
- 2b6. Missing data

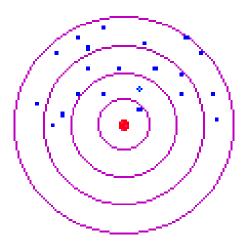
## Reliability and Validity (page 40)

#### Assume the center of the target is the true score...



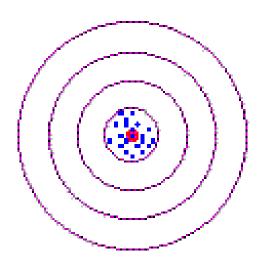
Reliable Not Valid

Consistent, but wrong



Neither Reliable Nor Valid

Inconsistent & wrong



Both Reliable And Valid

Consistent & correct

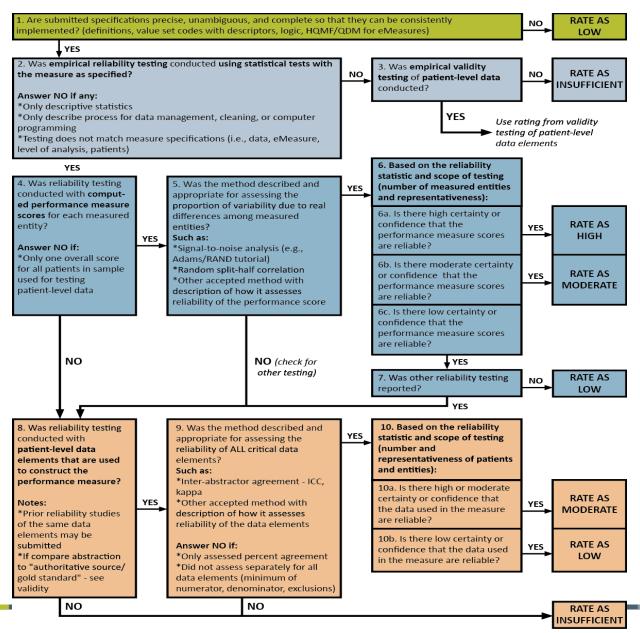
# Evaluating Scientific Acceptability – Key Points (page 41)

Empirical analysis to demonstrate the reliability and validity of the *measure as specified,* including analysis of issues that pose threats to the validity of conclusions about quality of care such as exclusions, risk adjustment/stratification for outcome and resource use measures, methods to identify differences in performance, and comparability of data sources/methods.

# Reliability Testing Key points - page 42

- Reliability of the *measure score* refers to the proportion of variation in the performance scores due to systematic differences across the measured entities in relation to random variation or noise (i.e., the precision of the measure).
  - Example Statistical analysis of sources of variation in performance measure scores (signal-to-noise analysis)
- Reliability of the data elements refers to the repeatability/reproducibility of the data and uses patient-level data
  - Example –inter-rater reliability
- Consider whether testing used an appropriate method and included adequate representation of providers and patients and whether results are within acceptable norms
- Algorithm #2

### Rating Reliability: Algorithm #2 – page 43



# Validity testing (pages 44 - 49) Key points – page 47

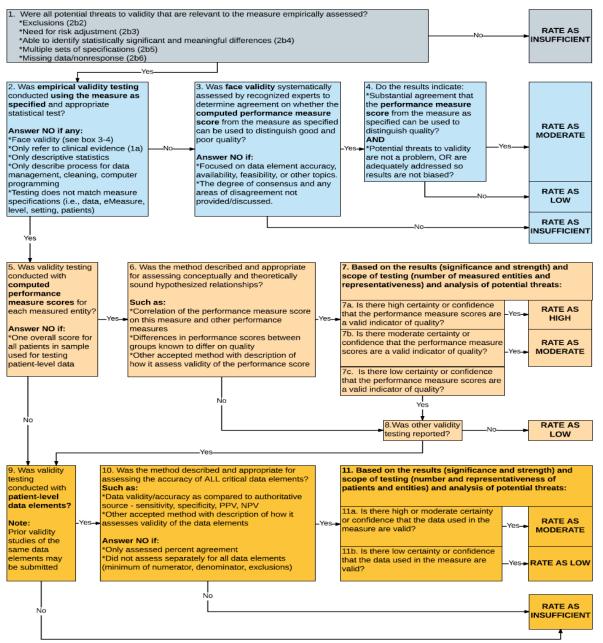
#### Empirical testing

- Measure score assesses a hypothesized relationship of the measure results to some other concept; assesses the correctness of conclusions about quality
- Data element assesses the correctness of the data elements compared to a "gold standard"

#### Face validity

- Subjective determination by experts that the measure appears to reflect quality of care
  - » Empirical validity testing is expected at time of maintenance review; if not possible, justification is required.
  - » Requires systematic and transparent process, by identified experts, that explicitly addresses whether performance scores resulting from the measure as specified can be used to distinguish good from poor quality. The degree of consensus and any areas of disagreement must be provided/discussed.

### Rating Validity: Algorithm #3 – page 48



### Threats to Validity

- Conceptual
  - Measure focus is not a relevant outcome of healthcare or not strongly linked to a relevant outcome
- Unreliability
  - Generally, an unreliable measure cannot be valid
- Patients inappropriately excluded from measurement
- Differences in patient mix for outcome and resource use measures
- Measure scores that are generated with multiple data sources/methods
- Systematic missing or "incorrect" data (unintentional or intentional)

# Criterion #2: Scientific Acceptability

New measures	Maintenance measures
<ul> <li>Measure specifications are precise with all information needed to implement the measure</li> </ul>	NO DIFFERENCE: Require updated specifications
<ul><li>Reliability</li><li>Validity (including risk-adjustment)</li></ul>	DECREASED EMPHASIS: If prior testing adequate, no need for additional testing at maintenance with certain exceptions (e.g., change in data source, level of analysis, or setting)
	Must address the questions regarding use of social risk factors in risk-adjustment approach

## Criterion #3: Feasibility (page 49) Key Points – page 50

Extent to which the required data are readily available, retrievable without undue burden, and can be implemented for performance measurement.

3a: Clinical data generated during care process

**3b: Electronic sources** 

3c: Data collection strategy can be implemented

# Criterion #4: Usability and Use (page 50) Key Points – page 51

Extent to which potential audiences (e.g., consumers, purchasers, providers, policymakers) are using or could use performance results for both accountability and performance improvement to achieve the goal of high-quality, efficient healthcare for individuals or populations.

#### Use (4a) Now must-pass for maintenance measures

**4a1:** Accountability and Transparency: Performance results are used in at least one accountability application within three years after initial endorsement and are publicly reported within six years after initial endorsement.

**4a2:** Feedback by those being measured or others: Those being measured have been given results and assistance in interpreting results; those being measured and others have been given opportunity for feedback; the feedback has been considered by developers.

#### **Usability (4b)**

**4b1: Improvement:** Progress toward achieving the goal of high-quality, efficient healthcare for individuals or populations is demonstrated.

**4b2: Benefits outweigh the harms:** The benefits of the performance measure in facilitating progress toward achieving high-quality, efficient healthcare for individuals or populations outweigh evidence of unintended negative consequences to individuals or populations (if such evidence exists).

# Criteria #3-4: Feasibility and Usability and Use

New measures	Maintenance measures	
Feasibility		
Measure feasible, including     eMeasure feasibility assessment	NO DIFFERENCE: Implementation issues may be more prominent	
Usability and Use		
Use: used in accountability     applications and public reporting	INCREASED EMPHASIS: Much greater focus on measure use and	
Usability: impact and unintended consequences	and unintended consequences	

# Criterion #5: Related or Competing Measures (page 51-52)

If a measure meets the four criteria <u>and</u> there are endorsed/new <u>related</u> measures (same measure focus <u>or</u> same target population) or <u>competing</u> measures (both the same measure focus <u>and</u> same target population), the measures are compared to address harmonization and/or selection of the best measure.

- 5a. The measure specifications are harmonized with related measures OR the differences in specifications are justified.
- 5b. The measure is superior to competing measures (e.g., is a more valid or efficient way to measure) OR multiple measures are justified.

# Updated guidance for measures that use ICD-10 coding: Fall 2017 and 2018

- Gap can be based on literature and/or data based on ICD-9 or ICD-10 coding
- Submit updated ICD-10 reliability testing if available; if not, testing based on ICD-9 coding will suffice
- Submit updated validity testing
  - Submit updated empirical validity testing on the ICD-10 specified measure, if available
  - OR face validity of the ICD-10 coding scheme plus face validity of the measure score as an indicator of quality
  - OR face validity of the ICD-10 coding scheme plus score-level empirical validity testing based on ICD-9 coding
  - OR face validity of the ICD-10 coding scheme plus data element level validity testing based on ICD-9 coding, with face validity of the measure score as an indicator of quality due at annual update

#### **eMeasures**

- "Legacy" eMeasures
  - Beginning September 30, 2017 all respecified measure submissions for use in federal programs will be required to use the same evaluation criteria as respecified measures – the "BONNIE testing only" option will no longer meet endorsement criteria
- For all eMeasures: Reliance on data from structured data fields is expected; otherwise, unstructured data must be shown to be both reliable and valid

#### **Evaluation Process**

- Preliminary analysis (PA): To assist the Committee evaluation of each measure against the criteria, NQF staff and Methods Panel (if applicable) will prepare a PA of the measure submission and offer preliminary ratings for each criteria.
  - The PA will be used as a starting point for the Committee discussion and evaluation
  - Methods Panel will complete review of Scientific Acceptability criterion for complex measures
- Individual evaluation: Each Committee member conduct an in-depth evaluation on all measures
  - Each Committee member will be assigned a subset of measures for which they will serve as lead discussant in the evaluation meeting.

#### **Evaluation Process**

- Measure evaluation and recommendations at the inperson/web meeting: The entire Committee will discuss and rate each measure against the evaluation criteria and make recommendations for endorsement.
- Staff will prepare a draft report detailing the Committee's discussion and recommendations
  - This report will be released for a 30-day public and member comment period
- Post-comment call: The Committee will re-convene for a postcomment call to discuss comments submitted
- Final endorsement decision by the CSAC
- Appeals (if any)

# Questions?

# Social Risk Overview

# Background

- NQF conducted a two-year trial period from 2015-2017. During this time, adjustment of measures for social risk factors was no longer prohibited
- The NQF Board of Directors reviewed the results of the trial period and determined there was a need to launch a new social risk initiative
- As part of the Equity Program, NQF will continue to explore the need to adjust for social risk
- Each measure must be assessed individually to determine if SDS adjustment is appropriate (included as part of validity subcriterion)
- The Standing Committee will continue to evaluate the measure as a whole, including the appropriateness of the risk adjustment approach used by the measure developer
- Efforts to implement SDS adjustment may be constrained by data limitations and data collection burden

### **Standing Committee Evaluation**

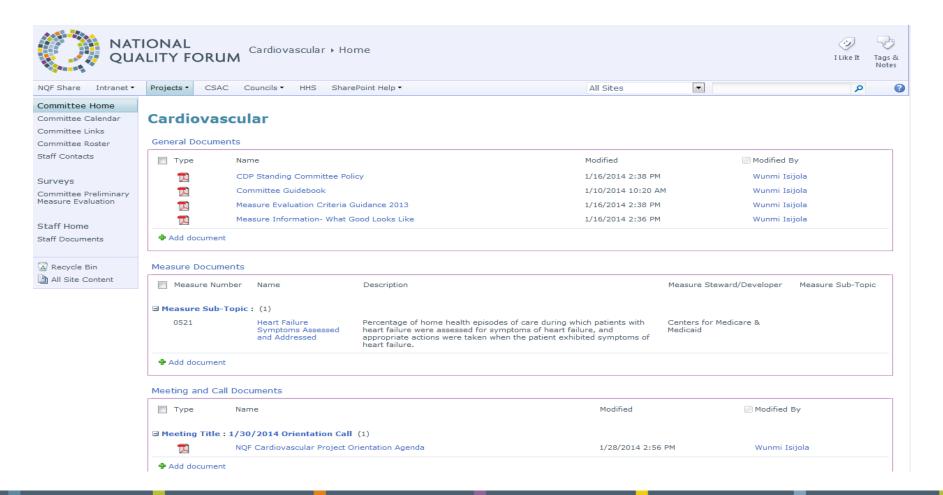
- The Standing Committee will be asked to consider the following questions:
  - Is there a conceptual relationship between the SDS factor and the measure focus?
  - What are the patient-level sociodemographic variables that were available and analyzed during measure development?
  - Does empirical analysis (as provided by the measure developer) show that the SDS factor has a significant and unique effect on the outcome in question?
  - Does the reliability and validity testing match the final measure specifications?

# Questions?

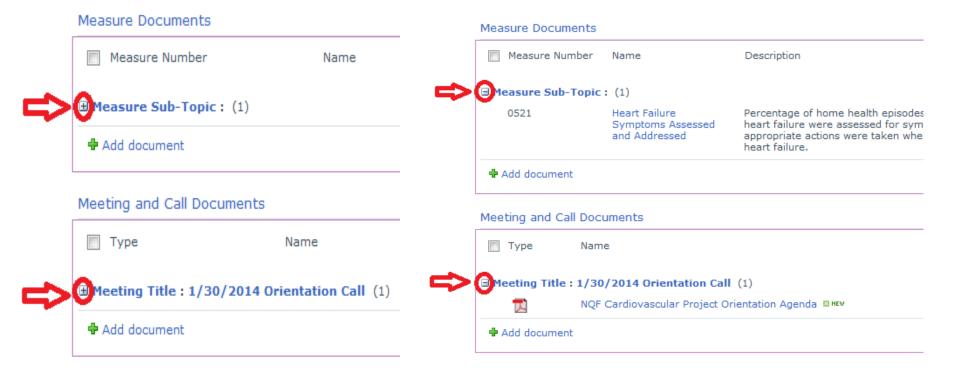
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- Accessing SharePoint
- Standing Committee Policy
- Standing Committee Guidebook
- Measure Document Sets
- Meeting and Call Documents
- Committee Roster and Biographies
- Calendar of Meetings

#### Screen shot of homepage:



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#### Measure Worksheet and Measure Information

- Measure Worksheet
  - Preliminary analysis, including eMeasure Technical Review if needed, and preliminary ratings
  - Member and Public comments
  - Information submitted by the developer
    - » Evidence and testing attachments
    - » Spreadsheets
    - » Additional documents

# Next Steps

## **Next Steps**

- Web Meeting
  - Monday, April 16, 2-4 pm

# **Project Contact Info**

- Email: <a href="mailto:neurology@qualityforum.org">neurology@qualityforum.org</a>
- NQF Phone: 202-783-1300
- Project page:
  <a href="http://www.qualityforum.org/Neurology">http://www.qualityforum.org/Neurology</a> .aspx
- SharePoint site: <u>http://share.qualityforum.org/Projects/Neurology%2020</u> <u>15/SitePages/Home.aspx</u>

# Questions?

