



Neurology Standing Committee – Spring 2020 Topical Web Meeting

The National Quality Forum (NQF) convened the Neurology Standing Committee for a web meeting on July 16, 2020.

Welcome, Introductions, and Review of Meeting Objectives

Matt Pickering, NQF senior director, welcomed the Standing Committee and participants to the web meeting. Dr. Pickering reviewed the meeting objectives, and Ngozi Ihenacho, NQF analyst, conducted the Committee roll call. The purpose of the Spring 2020 Neurology Standing Committee Topical Web Meeting was to discuss the purpose and role of the Core Quality Measure Collaborative (CQMC), review and discuss findings of the CQMC environmental scan of Neurology measures, present the current Neurology measure portfolio load, discuss potential gaps in measurement, and gain input on the state of the Neurology measure portfolio.

Topical Webinar Discussion

Amy Moyer, NQF director, presented a comprehensive overview of the Core Quality Measure Collaborative (CQMC), with an emphasis on the Neurology environmental scan and workgroup discussions. The CQMC is a broad NQF membership-based and multistakeholder effort to identify core quality measure sets that primarily focus on outpatient and clinician-level measurement. Supported by America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP) and Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the CQMC aims to reduce the burden of measurement and align measures across public and private payers to achieve congruence in the measures being used for quality improvement, transparency, and payment purposes. The CQMC also works to prioritize measure gaps and has created an implementation guide, which closed for public comment on July 17, 2020, to offer guidance on the dissemination and adoption of the newly identified core sets.

Ms. Moyer further discussed the environmental scan work conducted by the CQMC's Neurology workgroup. The workgroup identified a number of high priority focus areas that are accompanied by measures within the core set. These neurology measurement areas include amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), back pain, pediatric neurology, dementia, distal symmetric polyneuropathy, epilepsy, headache, multiple sclerosis, neuro-otology, Parkinson's disease, sleep apnea, and stroke.

Measure Gap Discussion

After the CQMC discussion, Dr. Pickering transitioned to an overview of the Neurology measure portfolio. Dr. Pickering shared a comparative review of the number and types of measures within the NQF Neurology portfolio across five years, starting with the 2015-2016 review period and ending with the fall 2019 cycle. During the 2015-2016 cycle, NQF had 15 endorsed measures in its Neurology portfolio. Dr. Pickering noted that during the 2017-2018 period, the Neurology Standing Committee did not receive any measure submissions and convened for a topical webinar in lieu of a measure evaluation meeting. Furthermore, the Neurology portfolio held 18 endorsed measures during the spring 2019 cycle, dropping down to 17 endorsed measures by the fall 2019 cycle. During the Standing Committee measure gap discussion, a Committee member suggested that the Qualified Clinical Data Registry

(QCDR) may have an effect on the submission of measures to NQF, as QCDRs may not require NQF endorsement for implementation and use. Another Committee member suggested that there is a gap in neurological measures that represent the pediatric population, such as stroke performance and care, emergency response, long-term functional outcomes, services utilization on a community level, post-acute care, and rehabilitation. Another Committee member mentioned that there is value in reviewing related and competing measures and recommended that NQF assess the activity of non-NQF endorsed measures for future endorsement considerations. Additionally, the Committee discussed the need for increased consideration of physical and occupational therapy in the development of neurological measures, the value of NQF endorsement, and strategies to increase cross-sector stakeholder collaboration.

Public Comment

No public or NQF member comments were provided.

Next Steps

NQF staff informed the Committee that the Intent to Submit deadline for the Fall 2020 cycle is August 3, 2020, while the Measure Submission deadline is November 2, 2020.