

NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM

ADDITIONAL CALL FOR NOMINATIONS TO STEERING COMMITTEE Neurology Endorsement Maintenance Project 2012 – Phase II

Additional expertise is needed for the Neurology Steering Committee. This Call for Nominations is targeted for the following gaps in the Steering Committee's expertise:

- Dementia
- Parkinson's disease

BACKGROUND

Neurological conditions and injuries affect millions of Americans each year, taking a tremendous toll on patients, families, and caregivers, and costing billions of dollars in treatment, rehabilitation, and lost or reduced earnings. Specifically:

- An estimated 5.4 million Americans have Alzheimer's disease, and an estimated 16 million will have Alzheimer's by 2050.¹ The disease accounts for 70 percent of the cases of dementia in the country.² In 2009, Alzheimer's disease was the fifth leading cause of death for adults ages 65 and over. Medicare and Medicaid spending on people with Alzheimer's disease totaled \$130 billion in 2011; this could rise to \$1.1 trillion by 2050.³
- Epilepsy affects two million Americans and is estimated to cost \$15.5 billion each year in medical costs and lost or reduced earnings and production.⁴
- One million Americans have Parkinson's disease, and the combined direct and indirect costs are estimated at \$25 billion per year.⁵

Phase II of the Neurology project seeks to identify and endorse new performance measures for accountability and quality improvement that specifically address neurological conditions. Additionally, one neurology consensus standard endorsed by NQF before 2010 also will be evaluated under the maintenance process. Phase I of the Neurology project, currently in the Member & Public Comment stage, reviewed measures relating to stroke care.

In Phase II, NQF has received performance measures that could be used for accountability and public reporting in the following topic areas related to neurology for adults and children in all settings of care. Measures including treatments, diagnostic studies, interventions, or procedures associated with these conditions will be considered:

- Cognitive impairment and dementia (including Alzheimer's disease);
- Epilepsy and related disorders; and
- Parkinson's disease

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NQF is particularly interested in composite and outcome measures; measures applicable to more than one setting; measures that capture broad populations, including children and adolescents where applicable; measures of chronic care management and care coordination for these conditions; and measures sensitive to the needs of vulnerable populations, including racial/ethnic minorities and Medicaid populations. To the extent possible, NQF encourages the inclusion of electronic specifications for the measures submitted to this project.

STEERING COMMITTEE

A multi-stakeholder Steering Committee will evaluate newly submitted measures and measures undergoing maintenance review and make recommendations for which measures should be endorsed as consensus standards. The Steering Committee, comprising of 20-24 individuals, will represent the variety of stakeholders, including consumers, purchasers, providers, professionals, plans, suppliers, community and public health, and healthcare quality experts.

Nominees should possess relevant knowledge and/or proficiency in process and outcome quality measurement and/or clinical expertise in the evaluation, treatment, diagnostic studies, imaging, interventions, or procedures associated with the topics listed above, across multiple care settings. NQF is seeking nominees with a variety of clinical experience, including physicians, nurses, therapists, case managers, unit managers, and executives. We also are seeking expertise in disparities and care of vulnerable populations.

The Steering Committee's primary work is to evaluate the submitted measures against NQF's standard [measure evaluation criteria](#) and make recommendations for endorsement. This Committee will evaluate approximately 20 measures and 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.

Steering Committee members should not have a vested interest in the 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.

TIME COMMITMENT

The Steering Committee will meet in person for a two-day meeting on October 3-4, 2012, in Washington, DC. Committee members must be available to attend the meeting. Additionally, Steering Committee members will meet twice by conference call for two hours each before the

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meeting and one time after the meeting, and be will asked to review measure forms before each call and meeting, as well as reviewing additional materials and providing feedback throughout the process. Additional conference calls may be needed.

The introductory orientation call is mandatory for new Steering Committee members and will be scheduled for **the week of August 27, 2012** (time TDB). Committee members will be assigned to a work group and required to attend one workgroup call before the meeting. These calls will be scheduled during the **week of September 10, 2012, for a two-hour block during a 12:00-5:00 pm ET timeslot**. Committee members will be assigned to workgroups after the Committee has been seated. There will be a required post-comment period conference call on **December 12, 2012** (time TBD) to discuss the comments received on the measures and the responses.

The majority of the Committee will remain in place from Phase I of this project; the [current roster](#) is available on the project page. **We are seeking to add 2-4 additional experts in the areas of Parkinson's disease and dementia to round out the Committee for Phase II.**

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 conference calls or meetings is 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 **orientation call during the week of August 27, 2012; the workgroup calls during the week of September 10, 2012; the October 3-4, 2012 in-person meeting; and the December 12, 2012 post-comment period call;**
- a 2-page letter of interest and a short biography (maximum 100 words), highlighting experience/knowledge relevant to the expertise described above and involvement in candidate measure development;
- curriculum vitae or list of relevant experience (e.g., publications) *up to 20 pages*; and
- a completed [conflict of interest](#) form.

Materials should be submitted through the [project page](#) on the NQF website.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION

All nominations *MUST* be submitted by **6:00 pm ET on Tuesday, July 31, 2012.**

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QUESTIONS

If you have any questions, please contact Kathryn Streeter, MPH, or Jessica Weber, MPH, at 202-783-1300 or neurology@qualityforum.org. Thank you for your assistance.

¹Centers for Disease Control. Available at http://www.cdc.gov/mentalhealth/data_stats/alzheimers.htm

²American Health Assistance Foundation. Available at <http://www.ahaf.org/alzheimers/about/understanding/facts.html>
Last accessed February 2012

³Centers for Disease Control. Available at http://www.cdc.gov/mentalhealth/data_stats/alzheimers.htm Last accessed February 2012

Alzheimer's Association. Available at http://www.alz.org/documents_custom/2011_Facts_Figures_Fact_Sheet.pdf
Last accessed February 2012

⁴Centers for Disease Control. Available at http://www.cdc.gov/epilepsy/basics/fast_facts.htm

⁵Parkinson's Disease Foundation. Available at http://www.pdf.org/en/parkinson_statistics Last accessed February 2012

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