

NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS TO STEERING COMMITTEE

Neurology Endorsement Maintenance Project 2012

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:

- Strokes were the fourth leading cause of death in the United States in 2009, as well as a leading cause of disability.¹ Each year, approximately 795,000 people suffer a stroke.² Health care costs for stroke-related morbidity reached \$73.7 billion in 2010.³
- An estimated 5.4 million Americans have Alzheimer's disease, and an estimated 16 million will have Alzheimer's by 2050.⁴ The disease accounts for 70 percent of the cases of dementia in the country.⁵ 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 2050.⁶
- 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.⁷
- One million Americans have Parkinson's disease, and the combined direct and indirect costs are estimated at \$25 billion per year.⁸
- Approximately 400,000 Americans have multiple sclerosis.⁹
- Traumatic brain injury (TBI) is a major health issue affecting all age groups in the United States, causing 52,000 deaths and 275,000 hospitalizations each year. An additional 1.3 million people are treated for mild TBI and released annually from emergency departments. Direct and indirect costs for treatment and lost productivity add up to an estimated \$76.5 billion yearly. These numbers do not include TBI associated with serving overseas in the military.¹⁰

This project seeks to identify and endorse new performance measures for accountability and quality improvement that specifically address neurological conditions. Additionally, 26 neurology consensus standards endorsed by NQF before 2010 also will be evaluated under the maintenance process.

NQF is seeking 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:

- Stroke and transient ischemic events;

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- Cognitive impairment and dementia (including Alzheimer's disease);
- Headache (including migraine);
- Epilepsy and related disorders;
- Parkinson's disease
- Multiple Sclerosis and other demyelinating diseases;
- Movement disorders;
- Disorders of consciousness;
- Spinal cord disorders;
- Brain injuries;
- Other disorders of the nervous system.

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 20-22 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 26 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.

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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 June 20-21, 2012, in Washington, DC. Committee members must be available to attend the meeting. Additionally, Steering Committee members will meet three times by conference call for two hours each before the meeting and one time after the meeting, and be will asked to review materials and provide feedback throughout the process. Additional conference calls may be needed.

The introductory orientation call is mandatory for all Steering Committee members and is scheduled for **May 15, 2012, from 12:00pm-2:00pm ET**. There will be measure evaluation tutorial calls scheduled on **May 22, 2012 from 2:00-4:00pm ET and May 24, 2012 from 3:30-5:30pm ET**; Committee members are strongly encouraged to attend one of these calls. Committee members will be assigned to a work group and required to attend one workgroup call before the meeting. These calls are scheduled for **June 4 (3:00-5:00pm ET), June 5 (2:00-4:00pm ET), June 6 (4:00-6:00pm ET), and June 7, 2012 (2:00-4:00pm ET)**. Committee members will be assigned to workgroups after the Committee has been seated. There will be a required post-comment period conference call on **August 27, 2012, from 1:00-3:00pm ET** to discuss the comments received on the measures and the responses.

Depending on the number of measures received, this project may be phased, meaning that half of the measures would be reviewed by the Committee in Summer 2012, and a second process would begin in Fall 2012, to review the remaining measures. The Committee for Phase II would remain substantially the same, pending a review of the expertise needed for the project content and assuming that there are no conflicts identified.

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

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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 on May 15, 2012**; the **June 20-21, 2012 in-person meeting**; and the **August 27, 2012 post-comment period call**;
- a 2-page letter of interest and a short biography (maximum 750 characters), 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 Monday, April 2, 2012**.

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions, please contact Karen E. Johnson, MS or Suzanne Theberge, MPH, at 202-783-1300 or neurology@qualityforum.org. Thank you for your assistance.

¹Centers for Disease Control. Available at <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/stroke.htm> Last accessed February 2012.
American Stroke Association. Available at http://www.strokeassociation.org/STROKEORG/AboutStroke/About-Stroke_UCM_308529_SubHomePage.jsp Last accessed February 2012

²The Internet Stroke Center. Available at <http://www.strokecenter.org/patients/about-stroke/stroke-statistics/> Last accessed February 2012

³American Stroke Association. Available at http://www.strokeassociation.org/STROKEORG/AboutStroke/Impact-of-Stroke_UCM_310728_Article.jsp Last accessed February 2012

⁴Centers for Disease Control. Available at http://www.cdc.gov/mentalhealth/data_stats/alzheimers.htm

⁵American Health Assistance Foundation. Available at <http://www.ahaf.org/alzheimers/about/understanding/facts.html> Last accessed February 2012

⁶Centers 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

⁷Centers for Disease Control. Available at http://www.cdc.gov/epilepsy/basics/fast_facts.htm

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⁸ Parkinson's Disease Foundation. Available at http://www.pdf.org/en/parkinson_statistics Last accessed February 2012

⁹ National Multiple Sclerosis Society. Available at <http://www.nationalmssociety.org/about-multiple-sclerosis/what-we-know-about-ms/faqs-about-ms/index.aspx#howmany> Last accessed February 2012

¹⁰ Centers for Disease Control. Available at http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/ss6005a1.htm?s_cid=ss6005a1_w Last accessed February 2012
Centers for Disease Control. Available at <http://www.cdc.gov/traumaticbraininjury/statistics.html> Last accessed February 2012

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