

NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS TO STEERING COMMITTEE PALLIATIVE CARE AND END-OF-LIFE CARE ENDORSEMENT MAINTENANCE PROJECT

NQF is seeking nominations for members of a Steering Committee for a new project to endorse measures that specifically address quality issues in palliative care and end-of-life (EOL) care. Palliative care generally refers to patient and family-centered care that optimizes quality of life by anticipating, preventing, and alleviating suffering across the continuum of a patient's illness.¹ Historically, palliative care referred to treatment available to patients at home and enrolled in hospice. More recently, palliative care has become available to acutely ill patients and its meaning has evolved to encompass comprehensive care that may be provided along with disease-specific, life-prolonging treatment.² EOL care refers to comprehensive care for a life-limiting illness that meets the patient's medical, physical, psychological, spiritual and social needs.³ Hospice care is a service delivery system that emphasizes symptom management without life-prolonging treatment, and is intended to enhance the quality of life for both patients with a limited life expectancy and their families.⁴

Endorsed measures will be used for public reporting and quality improvement applicable to all settings of care. In addition, NQF-endorsed[®] palliative and end-of-life care consensus standards that were endorsed prior to 2008 will undergo maintenance review.

BACKGROUND:

NQF has previously endorsed nine consensus standards for palliative care or end-of-life care. These measures were reviewed prior to 2008 as part of the *National Voluntary Consensus Standards for Quality of Cancer Care Project*.

As the quality measurement enterprise matures, more reliable and accessible data from clinical registries and electronic health records can support the demand for meaningful performance measures. In an effort to align itself with this evolving enterprise, NQF has emphasized a shift toward outcomes and composite measures.

STEERING COMMITTEE: A multi-stakeholder Steering Committee will oversee the development of a draft consensus report that will include recommendations for which measures should be endorsed as consensus standards. The draft consensus report will also include recommendations for measures undergoing maintenance that should continue as endorsed consensus standards.

¹ National Quality Forum (NQF), *A National Framework and Preferred Practices for Palliative and Hospice Care Quality*, Washington, DC: NQF; 2006, p. VI.

² Morrison SJ, Penrod JD, Cassel JB. Cost savings associated with US hospital palliative care consultation programs. *Arch IM*, 2008; 168(16): 1783-90.

³ White KR, Cochran CE, Patel UB. Hospital provision of end-of-life services, *Med Care*, 2002;40:17-25.

⁴ *National Quality Forum (NQF)*, p. VI.

Nominations Due By Tuesday, May 3, 2011 6:00 PM EST

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The Steering Committee membership should reflect expertise in palliative care and end-of-life care across multiple care settings. Nominees should possess relevant knowledge and/or proficiency in process and outcome quality measurement and/or clinical care of patients with debilitating disease or illness requiring palliative care or end-of-life care. Specific expertise in relief of clinical symptoms, advance care planning, psychosocial and communication needs, and patient experience is desired.

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.

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 once for a two-day meeting in the Washington, DC area on **Wednesday, July 20 and Thursday, July 21, 2011.**

Additionally, Steering Committee members may meet approximately three to four times by conference call for two hours each and be asked to review materials and provide feedback throughout the process. Follow-up conference calls may also be needed. The introductory orientation call is mandatory for all Steering Committee members and is scheduled for **Friday, June 17, 2011.**

CONSIDERATION AND SUBSTITUTION: Priority for Steering Committee membership will be given to nominations from NQF members. Please note that nominations and Steering Committee membership are of individuals, not organizations, so “substitutions” of other individuals from an organization at conference calls or in-person meetings 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 on the introductory call on **Friday, June 17, 2011 at 11:00 am** and the in-person meeting on **Wednesday, July 20 and Thursday, July 21, 2011;**
- 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;
- curriculum vitae or list of relevant experience (e.g., publications) *up to 20 pages*; and
- A completed Disclosure of Interest form.

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Materials should be submitted through the project page on the NQF web site.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: All nominations *MUST* be submitted by **6:00 pm ET on Tuesday, May 3, 2011.**

QUESTIONS: If you have any questions, please contact Caren Ginsberg, PhD, or Lindsey Tighe, MS, at 202-783-1300 or via email at pmpalliative@qualityforum.org. Thank you for your participation in this project.

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