



Patient Experience and Function Standing Committee – Measure Evaluation Post-Comment Web Meeting

The National Quality Forum (NQF) convened the Patient Experience and Function (PEF) Standing Committee for a web meeting on July 9, 2020 to evaluate one Fall 2019 measure that was not recommended for continued endorsement and to review public comments.

Welcome, Introductions, and Review of Meeting Objectives

The Standing Committee completed the evaluation of Spring 2020 measures before proceeding with the Fall 2019 post-comment discussion. Samuel Stolpe, NQF Senior Director, presented a summary of comments received during the Fall 2019 commenting period.

Review and Discussion of Public Comment

The commenting period for the Fall 2019 measure evaluation cycle closed on June 12, 2020. As of June 12, NQF received four comments from NQF members, the measure developer and the future measure steward to be reviewed by the Standing Committee.

Measure-Specific Comments

The Committee did not recommend NQF 0291 for continued endorsement during the Fall 2019 cycle, as the measure did not meet the criteria for scientific acceptability. The developer provided additional analysis following the measure evaluation meetings but did not request a formal reevaluation of the measure.

Comments received from NQF members, the developers and future measure stewards are summarized below:

0291 Emergency Transfer Communication Measure

Commenters noted that in the measure submission, the observed agreement of the two raters was over 85%. However, the Kappa statistics were notably low. This resulted in a low vote on reliability from the Standing Committee. The paradox is due to a disproportionate distribution of responses, given that both reviewers responded “yes” most of the time. An additional Max Kappa analysis was conducted to address the disproportionate distribution. The Max Kappa adjustment increased the Kappa value to .42 and the element range to (0.2 to 0.73) with a range of increases between 0% and just over 900%. The developer noted that though the adjusted overall Kappa value is increased, there is significant variability within the elements. Elements 6 and 8 have what can be considered high agreement, while elements 1, 5, and 7 have fair agreement.

Additional comments received outlined potential approaches to improving overall reliability in the future and expressed support for the Committee’s decision to remove endorsement for the measure due to its low rating on reliability.

During the meeting, the measure developer verbally reiterated that they are actively working to improve reliability, stating that over 1000 hospitals are currently collecting data that may be relevant in future evaluations.

Committee Response

The Committee thanks the developer for providing additional analysis and agrees that the measure is both valuable and relevant. The Committee believes the measure should be considered in the future and encourages the developer to provide more information around the measure's reliability.

Next Steps

NQF will hold the Fall 2019 CSAC review meeting on November 17-18, 2020. The CSAC meeting will be followed by the appeals period, which will occur from November 23, 2020 through December 23, 2020.