



## Patient Safety Standing Committee – Measure Evaluation Web Meeting

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The National Quality Forum (NQF) convened the Patient Safety Standing Committee for a web meeting on January 23, 2018 to evaluate one measure.

### Welcome, Introductions, and Review of Meeting Objectives

NQF welcomed the Standing Committee and participants to the web meeting. NQF staff reviewed the meeting objectives. Committee members each introduced themselves and disclosed any conflicts of interest.

### Topic Area Introduction and Overview of Evaluation Process

NQF staff provided an overview of the topic area and the evaluation process. Additionally, NQF staff reviewed the measure evaluation criteria.

### Measure Evaluation

During the meeting, the Patient Safety Standing Committee evaluated one measure for endorsement consideration. A summary of the Committee deliberations will be compiled and provided in the draft technical report. NQF will post the draft technical report on March 1, 2018 for public comment for 30 days on the NQF website.

**Measure Evaluation Criteria Rating Key:** H – High; M – Medium; L – Low; I – Insufficient

### 3316 Safe Use of Opioids – Concurrent Prescribing (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services)

#### *Measure Steward/Developer Representatives at the Meeting*

- Jayanti Bandyopadhyay, Mathematica Policy Research
- Llewelyn Brown, Mathematica Policy Research

#### *Standing Committee Votes*

- Evidence: H-4; M-16; L-0; I-1
- Performance Gap: H-2; M-15; L-0; I-3
- Reliability: H-0; M-12; L-5; I-3
- Validity: M-8; L-7; I-5
- Feasibility: H-6; M-12; L-2; I-1
- Use: Pass-18; No Pass-2
- Usability: H-1; M-11; L-4; I-5

#### *Standing Committee Recommendation for Endorsement: Yes-9; No-12 (Consensus Not Reached)*

The Standing Committee did not reach consensus on the reliability, validity, and usability subcriteria and overall recommendation of endorsement. The Committee indicated its strong support of measures that address the opioid crisis. However, Committee members had concerns

about how this particular measure was specified. They thought that it was too broad, and they were concerned about unintended consequences.

Specifically, Committee members were concerned about whether there were sufficient data to demonstrate that this is a sensitive measure of “inappropriate” prescriptions. Members pointed out that there are many cases where prescribing two opioids together or an opioid and a benzodiazepine together may be appropriate, but denominator exclusions did not adequately address such cases. There are also several patient populations with chronic pain—such as patients with sickle cell disease—for which a prescription for both a short-acting and long-acting opioid may be appropriate care. In addition, because this is a measure meant for measuring inpatient and emergency department (ED) settings, some Committee members were concerned that the measure did not include any assessment of whether there was a pre-existing prescription (i.e., present on admission exclusions) for medication combinations. Committee members also noted that the measure could potentially cause patient safety problems, particularly if facilities are compelled to change existing outpatient regimens to meet the measure rather than customizing individualized medication regimens that may be appropriate for certain patients.

The measure will be made available for public comment, and the Committee will re-vote and make a final recommendation after consideration of the comments on the post-comment web meeting on April 17, 2018.

### **Public Comment**

No public or NQF member comments were provided during the measure evaluation meeting. No public or NQF member comments were received during the pre-commenting period (November 28, 2017-January 10, 2018).

### **Next Steps**

NQF will post the draft technical report on March 1, 2018 for public comment for 30 calendar days. The continuous public comment with member support will close on March 30, 2018. NQF will re-convene the Standing Committee for the post-meeting web meeting on February 13, 2018 for the prioritization presentation. NQF will re-convene the Standing Committee for the post-comment web meeting on April 17, 2018.