



Patient Safety Standing Committee— Post-Comment Web Meeting, Fall 2018 Cycle

The National Quality Forum (NQF) convened the Patient Safety Standing Committee for a post-comment web meeting on May 1, 2019.

Welcome, Introductions, and Review of Meeting Objectives

Co-chairs Ed Septimus and Iona Thraen welcomed the Standing Committee and participants to the post-comment web meeting. NQF staff reviewed the meeting objectives.

Review Measures and Public Comments Received

During this review cycle, the Patient Safety Standing Committee reviewed and recommended continued endorsement for the following six measures undergoing maintenance review:

- 0553 Care for Older Adults (COA) – Medication Review
- 0555 INR Monitoring for Individuals on Warfarin
- 0753 American College of Surgeons – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (ACS-CDC) Harmonized Procedure Specific Surgical Site Infection (SSI) Outcome Measure
- 1716 National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) Facility-wide Inpatient Hospital-onset Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) Bacteremia Outcome Measure
- 1717 National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) Facility-wide Inpatient Hospital-onset *Clostridium difficile* Infection (CDI) Outcome Measure
- 3450 Practice Environment Scale - Nursing Work Index (PES-NWI)

The draft report for this measure cycle was posted on the project webpage for public and NQF member comment on March 11, 2019 for 30 days. The commenting period closed on April 9, 2019. NQF Senior Director Andrew Lyzenga summarized the comments received during the public comment period. NQF received 13 comments from two member organizations. Some comments expressed similar concerns raised during the January/February measure evaluation Committee meeting. The four major themes identified in the [comment memo](#) during the post-evaluation commenting period were as follows:

1. Validity testing
2. Measure alignment with guideline recommendations
3. Related and competing measures
4. Supportive comments

Theme 1 – Validity Testing

NQF received four comments related to the data element validity testing for measures 1716 and 1717. The comments expressed concern that the validity testing of the two measures was not done at the facility level for data element validity testing. The developer responded that validations are conducted at each facility, and facility-specific data accuracy estimates are

provided to each facility by the respective state health departments. NQF staff confirmed that the testing provided was appropriate based on NQF standards. The Standing Committee felt that the validity testing was thoroughly discussed during the measure evaluation web meeting and maintained the Standing Committee's recommendation for continued endorsement for measure 1716 and 1717.

Theme 2 – Measure Alignment with Guideline Recommendations

Three commenters expressed concern that the 8-week monitoring interval for measure 0555 *INR Monitoring for Individuals on Warfarin* is not entirely consistent with existing conflicting guideline recommendations and, therefore, did not support the Committee's recommendation for re-endorsement. The Standing Committee felt that the time monitoring interval was thoroughly discussed during the measure evaluation web meeting. The Standing Committee recommended that NQF consider having the Scientific Methods Panel provide guidance on the strength of the evidence and statistical interpretation of study results in situations where there are guideline recommendation discrepancies or where emerging evidence differs from the current evidence base. Another Committee member did not feel that a specific policy was needed, but agreed that the latest evidence should be used to inform measure specifications.

Theme 3 – Related and Competing Measures

One commenter suggested that the developer consider measure 0553 *Care for Older Adults (COA) – Medication Review* as a competing measure with the Pharmacy Quality Alliance's (PQA) *MTM Program Completion Rate Comprehensive Medication Review* measure. NQF noted that the PQA measure is not NQF-endorsed and NQF does not ask Standing Committees to consider measures not endorsed by NQF as related and competing measures. The Standing Committee had no further discussion on this comment.

Theme 4 – Supportive Comments

Five comments expressed support for the Committee's recommendation for re-endorsement of measure 3450 *Practice Environment Scale - Nursing Work Index (PES-NWI)*. Commenters noted the measure's contribution to helping advance improvement of the work environment for nurses. The Standing Committee had no further discussion on this comment.

Measure-Specific Comment – 0555 INR Monitoring for Individuals on Warfarin

One of the comments about 0555 also supported the Committee's previous recommendation that the developers consider risk adjustment and analyze the impact of social risk factors in the adjustment model. The developer responded that further evaluation of risk adjustment is planned for the next comprehensive review since data from implementation may be available to support the analysis. While some Committee members agreed that the developer should consider testing for the impact of social risk factors, at least one Standing Committee member expressed concern about risk-adjusting process measures.

After review of all the comments received, the Standing Committee maintained its recommendation for continued endorsement of the six maintenance measures under review this cycle.

Discuss Related and Competing Measures

NQF staff shared with the Committee members [related and competing measures](#) for the measures under review during this cycle. Although the related measures are not under review during this cycle and there is no best-in-class voting, NQF noted the importance of promoting alignment by the Standing Committee and developers. The Standing Committee agreed that most of the related measures noted by NQF staff did not warrant further alignment as they have significant differences in measure focus and/or target population.

The Standing Committee did briefly discuss 0555 *INR Monitoring for Individuals on Warfarin* and related measure 2732e *INR Monitoring for Individuals on Warfarin after Hospital Discharge* by CMS. One Standing Committee member noted that the two measures have different target populations and different time intervals for warfarin monitoring. 2732e is a one-time monitoring measure. One Standing Committee member expressed that potentially both measures not needed.

The Patient Safety Standing Committee has been discussing medication review and medication reconciliation measures and potential for harmonization since fall 2018. 0553 *Care for Older Adults (COA) – Medication Review* has five related medication review/medication reconciliation measures. NQF and the co-chairs recently had conversations with the medication review/medication reconciliation developers and stewards. After discussion with the developers, some suggested next steps include standardizing definitions for medication reconciliation, medication review, and medication coordination. Co-chair, Iona Thraen, recommended that it is important to include international standards (ISO) in this effort to standardize definitions. NQF and the Standing Committee will use the May 23 Standing Committee Web Meeting to continue the medication review/medication reconciliation harmonization discussion.

Public Comment

No public or NQF member comments were provided during the post-comment web meeting.

Next Steps

Fall 2018 Cycle:

NQF will convene the CSAC web meeting on June 5-6 for review and approval of the six maintenance measures. Following CSAC review, there will be an appeals period from June 14 through July 15, 2019.

Spring 2019 Cycle:

NQF will hold a Standing Committee web meeting in May 23 to continue discussion on medication reconciliation/medication review harmonization. For the spring 2019 cycle, there will be 11 measures for review. The Standing Committee will have a measure evaluation in-person meeting on June 17, 2019 at NQF offices in Washington, DC. The post-measure evaluation web meeting is scheduled for June 24, 2019.