



Patient Safety Standing Committee Web Meeting

The National Quality Forum (NQF) convened a public web meeting for the Patient Safety Standing Committee and expert reviewers on July 10, 2018.

Welcome, Introductions, and Review of Web Meeting Objectives

Co-chairs Ed Septimus and Iona Thraen welcomed participants to the web meeting. Hiral Dudhwala, NQF project manager, explained the objective of the meeting: to continue discussion on the NQF Measure Prioritization Initiative that was first introduced to the Committee in February 2018.

Follow-Up on NQF Prioritization

Madison Jung, NQF project manager, provided an overview and update on the NQF Prioritization Initiative. The goal of the NQF Prioritization Initiative is to identify and prioritize the best measures for accountability and improvement work. In order to do so, NQF has developed a standardized set of criteria to prioritize endorsed measures. The output of the process will inform the identification and creation of a set of measures that matter and motivate improvement. In addition, through this exercise, NQF hopes to reduce burden by elucidating where there is redundancy in measurement.

NQF reminded the Committee that it had used the first version of the criteria to evaluate the portfolio in 2017. Since then, the criteria were updated to the following and are equally weighted in a measure's final prioritization score:

- Outcome-focused (25%)
 - Outcome measures and measures with strong link to improved outcomes and costs
- Improvable (25%)
 - Measures with demonstrated need for improvement and evidence-based strategies for doing so
- Meaningful to patients and caregivers (25%)
 - Person-centered measures with meaningful and understandable results for patients and caregivers
- Support systemic and integrated view of care (25%)
 - Measures that reflect care that spans settings, providers, and time to ensure that care is improving within and across systems of care

NQF stated that the next step in this process would be identifying ways to include an equity-focused criterion for future prioritization efforts.

After quickly reviewing the initial scoring results based on the ranking of measures in the Patient Safety portfolio, Committee members were asked if the initial scoring results yielded the outcomes they might have expected. A Committee member recommended incorporating an extra point into the prioritization criteria if a measure is an electronic quality measure (eCQM). Some Committee members stated that the “meaningful to patients and caregivers” criterion is not clear and should be reconsidered for this portfolio because all of the measures are patient safety measures, and this criteria does not differentiate among them. A patient representative on the Committee noted that patient priorities (such as shared decision making or informed consent) are not strongly represented either in the current NQF Prioritization Initiative or in the NQF Patient Safety portfolio.

The Committee also recommended evaluating and prioritizing measures separately or differently based on the measure type (i.e., process, outcome). Outcome measures can measure direct injury or harm to the patients, whereas process or structural measures can indirectly measure injury or harm to the patients. For example, a measure in the patient safety portfolio looking at nursing care hours per patient day can directly affect patient safety outcomes. Some Committee members felt that important patient safety process measures were receiving lower prioritization scoring. However, other Committee members disagreed and felt that the criteria should continue to emphasize outcomes and hence have a higher score for outcome measures. Committee members were encouraged to send further feedback through an online survey.

Public Comment

Desmirra Quinnonez, NQF project analyst, opened the web meeting to allow for public comment. No public comments were offered.

Next Steps

Ms. Quinnonez reviewed the next steps for the Patient Safety project with the Standing Committee and expert reviewers. For the fall 2017 cycle, Ms. Quinnonez noted that CSAC approved NQF #3316e and no appeals were received during the 30-day appeals period. The patient safety final technical report for the fall 2017 cycle will be posted on July 23, 2018.

Ms. Quinnonez reviewed the remaining spring 2018 cycle timeline, including the web meeting on September 12, 2018. Finally, Ms. Quinnonez noted the upcoming intent to submit deadline for measure stewards and developers on August 1, 2018 for the fall 2018 cycle.