



## Maternity Action Team: Multi-stakeholder Action in Support of the Partnership for Patients

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### What are we doing?

The National Quality Forum (NQF) is seeking nominations for a multi-stakeholder Action Team to actively improve maternity care for mothers and babies, with a specific focus on reducing Cesarean section rates. By convening the Maternity Action Team, NQF will continue its collaborative and collective work to improve the health and well-being of mothers and babies.

### Why this work?

Rates of cesarean section have risen to nearly 33 percent in recent decades, despite the potential health risks for mothers and babies in the days and weeks after birth. Cesarean births also are more expensive than vaginal births, with the average costs for cesareans about 50 percent higher than those for vaginal deliveries. In 2012, the NPP-convened Maternity Action Team identified C-section and an improvement area that is primed for action and meaningful change.

### How will we get there?

The Maternity Action Team will be guided by the National Quality Strategy and specifically, earlier work by the [Partnership for Patients and the National Priorities Partnership](#). Building on previous successes and commitments to this work, the Maternity Action Team will continue working on its goal to reduce C-sections by developing and aligning strategies and acting as change agents to mobilize action and systems-level change.

Many factors have contributed to the rise in cesarean births. Understanding these forces and finding solutions that address them in a focused and coordinated way offer great opportunity for improving this critical area of health and health care. This work supports the Partnership for Patient's broader goals of improving safety by reducing hospital-acquired conditions by 40 percent and preventable hospital readmissions by 20 percent.

### Who are we looking for?

NQF is looking for change agents in maternity care at the local, regional, and national level. Action Team members will have the opportunity to network with others and work collaboratively in championing and advancing shared goals. The Action Team is seeking clinicians, providers, payers, purchasers, consumers, and others working to advance maternity care by reducing unnecessary c-sections.

### What is the time commitment?

Action Team members can expect to contribute up to 40 hours of their time (total) over the duration of the project, through meetings, phone calls, and follow-up work in between conversations. Following is a list of the Maternity Action Team events to occur between January 2014 and September 2014:

- Monthly conference calls with group members on the "3rd Monday of each month at 4pm ET", from March 2014 through September 2014
- An in-person meeting in Washington DC, at NQF offices on February 20, 2014

- An in-person meeting in Washington DC, at NQF offices on June 12, 2014
- A public webinar on April 21, 2014
- A public webinar on August 18, 2014

Between meetings, Action Team members will be asked to commit energy and available resources toward the group's identified strategies. Over the year, Action Team members will contribute to an action pathway and to the identification of success stories and replicable exemplars that highlight significant contributions to this work. NQF will cover all travel expenses related to Action Team meetings.

## How to apply?

To be considered for an Action Team, please complete the online nomination form, available [here](#). Self-nominations are welcome. Third-party nominations must indicate that the individual has been contacted and is willing to serve. Please note that nominations are for an individual, not an organization, and substitutions of other individuals from an organization at in-person meetings and on conference calls are discouraged.

Please select the 'Maternity Action Team' checkbox when applying and be sure to complete the form in its entirety, including your relevant expertise and statement of interest. Please note that a CV is not required for this committee.

## What is the deadline?

All nominations **MUST** be submitted by **6:00 pm ET on Tuesday, December 17, 2013**.

## Questions?

For nomination-related questions, please contact Connie Bach at [nominations@qualityforum.org](mailto:nominations@qualityforum.org). For general questions about the Maternity Action Team project, please contact Juliet Feldman, Project Manager at 202-783-1300 or at [jfeldman@qualityforum.org](mailto:jfeldman@qualityforum.org).