

CALL FOR MEASURES

PATIENT SAFETY MEASURES

The National Quality Forum (NQF) is seeking measures for a new project to endorse cross-cutting patient safety measures across conditions, populations, and settings of care.

In November 2008, the National Priorities Partnership (NPP) deemed Patient Safety as one of the six national priorities, with specific focus on reduction of hospital-level mortality rates, serious adverse events, and healthcare associated infections. Among the NQF inventory of almost 550 endorsed measures, slightly less than 100 measures (~20%) currently relate to patient safety. In addition, NQF has endorsed 34 safe practices in the 2009 update of the Safe Practices for Better Healthcare and 28 Serious Reportable Events (SREs) are listed in the latest version (2006) of the SRE program. The SREs, Safe Practices, and NQF-endorsed patient safety measures are important tools for tracking and improving patient safety performance in American health care. However, significant gaps remain in the measurement of patient safety.

There is also a recognized need to expand available patient safety measures beyond the hospital setting and harmonize safety measures across sites and settings of care, including ambulatory care, hospitals, emergency departments, surgical services, and nursing homes. Safety measures that extend across settings and providers of care are needed. In order to fill these gaps and to develop a more robust set of safety measures, NQF will be soliciting patient safety measures to fill gap areas that address condition-specific and environment-specific issues with the highest potential leverage for improvement (e.g., healthcare associated infections, culture of safety, and hospital standardized mortality rates). Efforts to improve patient safety would benefit from further harmonization of the safety measures with the NQF Safe Practices and SREs. Candidate safety measures may be cross-cutting or condition specific including, but not limited to, measures of:

- Measures related to priorities of the National Priorities Partnership - <http://www.nationalprioritiespartnership.org/uploadedFiles/NPP/Priorities/3.pdf>
- Measures related to NQF Safe Practices
- Measures related to NQF Serious Reportable Events
- Healthcare associated infections (e.g., surgical-site infections, ventilator-associated pneumonia, urinary catheter-associated infections, central line-associated bloodstream infections, Multi-Drug Resistant Organisms (MDROs), including MRSA and Clostridium difficile.
- Safety risk assessment and/or risk identification
- Hospital standardized mortality rates
- Leadership and culture of safety
- Teamwork and other workforce-based measures
- Care hand-offs and communication
- Errors in diagnosis
- Maternal and fetal care, including labor and delivery
- Safety in pediatric care
- Reporting and follow-up of critical test results
- Use of patient restraints
- Patient falls
- Labeling of diagnostic testing and medications
- Medical equipment malfunction creating harm, including improper use of medical tubing
- Blood transfusion safety

THE NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM

This “Call” solicits candidate measures for review, evaluation, and potential endorsement as national voluntary consensus standards for patient safety.

Any organization or individual may submit measures for consideration. To be included as part of the initial evaluation, candidate consensus standards must meet the following general criteria:

- be fully developed for use (e.g., research and testing have been completed);
- be open source or in the public domain¹
- have an identified measure steward²
- be intended for both public reporting and quality improvement

To **submit a measure**, please complete the following:

- [Online Measure Submission Form](#)
Clicking on this link will redirect you to the webpage for this project, from which you can access the online measure submission form.
- [Measure Steward Agreement Form](#)

Please note that no material will be accepted without fully executing the attached *Measure Steward Agreement Form*. All materials not meeting this requirement will be returned to the sender.

Materials must be submitted using the online measure submission form by 6:00 pm, ET on Tuesday, February 2, 2010. If you have any questions, please contact Andrew Lyzenga at 202.783.1300 or patientsafety@qualityforum.org. Thank you for your assistance with this project!