

## NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM

### CALL FOR NOMINATIONS TO STEERING COMMITTEE ENDORSEMENT MAINTENANCE OF COMPLICATIONS-RELATED PATIENT SAFETY MEASURES

NQF is seeking nominations for members of a Steering Committee and/or Technical Advisory Panels (TAPs) for a new project to endorse patient safety measures related to healthcare complications. Building on the work of the previous Patient Safety Measures project, which launched in 2009 and considered measures related to healthcare-acquired infections, medication safety, and radiation dosing, among other subjects, this project focuses on healthcare complications, such as falls, pressure ulcers, venous thromboembolism, and adverse surgical events, and will also continue to address the high-profile issues of healthcare-acquired infections and medication safety. Some individuals from the previous Patient Safety Measures Steering Committee may serve on this Committee to ensure continuity across the work. Endorsed measures will be used for public reporting and quality improvement. In addition, NQF-endorsed® patient safety consensus standards that were endorsed prior to June 2009 will undergo maintenance review.

**BACKGROUND:** Patient safety is a cornerstone of an improved health care system: a focus on reducing harm can save lives, save money, and engender new trust in the health care system. Making care safer is one of six aims laid out in the recently released National Strategy for Quality Improvement in Health Care (National Quality Strategy), which was heavily influenced by the National Priorities Partnership input.

NQF has a ten-year history of focusing on patient safety. Through various projects, NQF has previously endorsed over 100 consensus standards related to patient safety. In addition, NQF has endorsed 34 safe practices in the 2010 update of the Safe Practices for Better Healthcare and 29 Serious Reportable Events (SRE). The Safe Practices, SREs, and NQF-endorsed patient safety measures are important tools for tracking and improving patient safety performance in American healthcare. 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. In order to develop a more robust set of safety measures, NQF will be soliciting patient safety measures to address environment-specific issues with highest potential leverage for improvement

**STEERING COMMITTEE:** A multi-stakeholder Patient Safety Measures Steering Committee, comprising up to 21 individuals, will oversee development of a draft consensus report that will include recommendations of which measures should be endorsed as consensus standards and, with respect to measures undergoing maintenance, which measures should continue as endorsed consensus standards.

Specific clinical expertise will be required in some of the areas identified above (e.g., falls, pressure ulcers, venous thromboembolism, medication safety, adverse surgical events, and healthcare-acquired infections). Knowledge of specific healthcare environments – including but not limited to: ambulatory care, nursing homes, hospital emergency departments, surgical services and home health – is also desirable.

# NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM

**Steering Committee members should not have a vested interest in the candidate measures. This includes employees or contractors of measure owners/developers; members of workgroups that developed the measures; and members of committees that approve measures, or direct or set policy for measure development.** Please see the NQF website for additional information about the conflict of interest policy. All potential Steering Committee members must disclose any current and past activities during the nomination process.

As with all NQF projects, the Steering Committee will work with NQF staff to develop specific project plans, provide advice about the subject, ensure input is obtained from relevant stakeholders, review draft products, and recommend specific measures and research priorities to NQF Members for consideration under the Consensus Development Process.

**TIME COMMITMENT:** The Steering Committee will meet in person for a two-day meeting on **Wednesday and Thursday, October 26 and 27, 2011**, in the Washington, DC area. Additionally, Steering Committee members will meet three times by conference call for two hours each. Follow-up e-mail communications or conference calls may be needed.

**TECHNICAL ADVISORY PANELS:** Depending on the measures submitted to this project, NQF may use TAPs of up to 10 members each to provide additional measurement and clinical expertise in specific clinical areas or environments of care. The TAPs will work with NQF staff to provide technical evaluation of the measures against NQF's standard measure evaluation criteria. The TAP will be chaired by a member of the Patient Safety Measures Steering Committee with the relevant expertise. The TAPs will likely meet for a one-day meeting in Washington, DC, though the majority of work will be conducted via email/conference calls.

**CONSIDERATION AND SUBSTITUTION:** Priority will be given to nominations from NQF Members. Please note that nominations are to an individual, not an organization, so "substitutions" of other individuals from an organization at conference calls are not permitted.

**MATERIAL TO SUBMIT:** Self-nominations are welcome. Third-party nominations must indicate that the individual has been contacted and is willing to serve. To be considered for appointment to the Steering Committee or a Technical Advisory Panel, please send the following information:

- A completed Nomination Form;
- confirmation of availability to participate in the introductory conference call on **Wednesday, September 7, 2011 AND** the in-person meeting **ON Wednesday and Thursday, October 26 and 27, 2011**;
- a 2-page letter of interest and a 100 word maximum biography, highlighting experience/knowledge relevant to the expertise described above and involvement in candidate measure development;
- curriculum vitae and/or list of relevant experience (e.g., publications) *up to 20 pages*; and
- completed "Non-Disclosure Agreement" form.

Materials should be submitted through the project page on the NQF website.

# NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION:** All nominations *MUST* be submitted by **6:00pm EST on Friday, July 1, 2011.**

**QUESTIONS:** If you have any questions, please contact Andrew Lyzenga at 202.783.1300 or via email at [patientsafety@qualityforum.org](mailto:patientsafety@qualityforum.org). Thank you for your assistance!