

NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM

CALL FOR MEASURES:

POPULATION HEALTH: PREVENTION ENDORSEMENT MAINTENANCE

BACKGROUND

Health determinants, including social and environmental factors and individual behaviors, are varied and can potentially influence overall health and well-being. Inadequate preventive and behavioral choices can have significant negative impacts on health outcomes and economic stabilityⁱ. These behaviors along with other determinants contribute to 60 percent of American deaths. The healthcare delivery system, public health, and key community stakeholders can play an important role in redressing poor health outcomes through appropriate and targeted interventions. In 2010 the National Priorities Partnership (NPP), through the Population Health Workgroup, developed several recommendations for partners and other stakeholders including a recommendation to inform measure development, with consideration to performance measurement gaps, and issues related to complex measuresⁱⁱ.

To date, NQF has endorsed nearly 40 preventive services and healthy behaviors measures. The Population Health: Prevention Endorsement Maintenance project seeks to expand NQF's previous efforts through a multi-stakeholder Consensus Development Process (CDP). Given the need for harmonized and additional global prevention measures, this first stage of population health work will include review of 33 NQF-endorsed[®] preventive services and healthy behaviors measures as well as newly submitted individual and composite measures.

CALL FOR MEASURES

In this call, NQF would like to target quality improvement measures that could be used in public reporting, including, but not limited to the following cross-cutting areas and conditions:

- clinical prevention and screening (e.g., immunizations, counseling, preventive medication);
- disease management (e.g., chronic conditions);
- composite and outcome measures;
- measures that include children and adolescents; and
- measures sensitive to the needs of vulnerable populations, including racial/ethnic minorities and Medicaid populations.

Condition and/or disease topic areas may include:

- cancer,
- diabetes,
- sexually transmitted diseases (STDs),
- overweight/obesity,
- physical activity,
- oral health,

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- tobacco use,
- nutrition,
- alcohol and drug use, and
- injury and violence.

This consensus standards endorsement maintenance project consists of two activities:

1. Identification and endorsement of preventive health and healthy behaviors measures for public reporting and quality improvement. Measures for consideration may include individual or composite measures of process, outcomes, and structure from a variety of care settings.
2. Maintenance of 33 NQF-endorsed voluntary consensus standards relevant to preventive services and healthy behaviors. These measures were reviewed prior to 2009 in various projects and will be submitted for endorsement maintenance as a part of the current project.

To the extent possible, NQF encourages the inclusion of electronic specifications for the measures submitted to this project.

Any organization or individual may submit measures for consideration. To be included as part of the initial evaluation, candidate consensus standards must be within the scope of the project and meet the following general conditions as specified in the [measure evaluation criteria](#):

- A. The measure steward is in public domain or a [measure steward agreement form](#) is signed.
- B. The measure owner/steward verifies there is an identified responsible entity and process to maintain and update the measure on a schedule that is commensurate with the rate of clinical innovation, but at least every three years.
- C. The intended use of the measure includes both public reporting and quality improvement.
- D. The measure must be fully specified and tested for reliability and validity.
- E. The measure developer/steward attests that harmonization with related measures and issues with competing measures have been considered and addressed, as appropriate.
- F. The requested measure submission information is complete and responsive to the questions so that all the information needed to evaluate all criteria is provided.

Measures without testing on reliability and validity will not be eligible for submission; although, few exceptions may apply.

To submit a measure, please complete the following:

- [online measure submission form](#), and
- [measure steward agreement form](#).

Please note that materials will not be accepted unless accompanied by a fully executed [measure steward agreement form](#). All materials not meeting this requirement will be returned to the sender.

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Materials must be submitted using the online submission process by **6:00 pm ET on Tuesday, July 12, 2011**. If you have questions, please contact Elisa Munthali, MPH at 202-783-1300 or email populationhealth@qualityforum.org.

ⁱ Nash DB, Reifsnyder J, Fabius RJ, et al.. *Population Health: Creating a Culture of Wellness*, Sudbury, MA: Jones & Bartlett Learning; 2011.

ⁱⁱ National Priorities Partnership (NPP), *Why Population Health?* Washington, DC:NPP Available at www.nationalprioritiespartnership.org/PriorityDetails.aspx?id=610. Last accessed May 2011.