



Primary Care and Chronic Illness Standing Committee Web Meeting

The National Quality Forum (NQF) convened a public web meeting for the Primary Care and Chronic Illness Standing Committee on February 1, 2018 from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm ET.

Welcome, Introductions, and Review of Web Meeting Objectives

Hiral Dudhwala, project manager, and Standing Committee Co-Chair, Dr. Dale Bratzler, welcomed participants to the web meeting. Ms. Dudhwala provided opening remarks and reviewed the following meeting objectives:

- Overview of the Primary Care and Chronic Illness Portfolio
- Introduction to NQF Prioritization
- Overview of the Upcoming spring 2018 cycle.

Overview of Primary Care and Chronic Illness Portfolio

John Bernot, senior director, provided an overview of the Primary Care and Chronic Illness measures in the project and in the portfolio. Project measures are directly reviewed for endorsement by the Primary Care and Chronic Illness Standing Committee. The Committee currently has 58 NQF-endorsed project measures. Portfolio measures are ancillary measures related to the topic area of Primary and Care and Chronic Illness, but those measures are reviewed for endorsement by other NQF standing committees. The purpose of reviewing the portfolio of measures is to provide context for the Committee when evaluating the project measures for gap areas and prioritization. The portfolio will help inform the Committee of existing NQF-endorsed measures during such conversations.

Prior to the meeting, the Standing Committee and expert reviewers were sent a list of measures identified by the staff for inclusion in the Primary Care and Chronic Illness portfolio and a survey to provide feedback on the portfolio. Dr. Bernot reviewed the feedback on maintenance measures to include in and exclude from the portfolio, as well as gap areas on specific health topic areas. Dr. Bratzler facilitated further discussion on these topics.

In the pre-meeting survey, the participants identified the following topics:

Measures for Inclusion:

- Cardiovascular and cardiovascular-related
- Diabetes and diabetes-related
- Family experience with coordination for care
- Functional status*
- Patient activation
- Literacy assessment
- Admission rates
 - Asthma
 - Urinary tract infection

- Quality of life

Measures for Exclusion:

- Medication reconciliation post-discharge
- Functional status*
- Admission rates
 - Dehydration
 - Gastroenteritis
- Improvement in bathing
- Hearing screening prior to hospital discharge
- Proportion of patients with pneumonia that have a potentially avoidable complication

*Functional status measures received differing opinions by the Committee and expert reviewers on whether it should be included in the Primary Care and Chronic Illness portfolio. Participants agreed that this topic area warranted further discussion.

In addition to the list of measures above, participants suggested including measures addressing the following topics:

- Opioid-related measures
- End-of-life care
- Screening for substance use
- Treatment of hepatitis C
- Pre-exposure prophylaxis for HIV
- Education measures for medication use and compliance for patients with chronic illness
- Outpatient glycemic control
- Prevention of diabetes in high-risk patients

Committee members and expert reviewers suggested using different terminology to describe project measures and portfolio measures. Several participants found the language confusing. NQF staff noted that the development of these portfolios is ongoing, and staff will continue to solicit participants' feedback on both the terminology and portfolio composition.

Introduction to NQF Prioritization

Dr. Bernot introduced the NQF prioritization and strategic vision. Dr. Bernot reviewed NQF prioritization criteria. The four prioritization criteria are as follows:

- Outcome-focused
 - Outcome measures and measures with a strong link to improved outcomes and costs
- Improvable
 - Measures with demonstrated need for improvement and evidence-based strategies for doing so
- Support systematic and integrated view of care
 - Measures that reflect care that spans settings, providers, and time to ensure that care is improving within and across systems of care

- Meaningful to patients and caregivers
 - Person-centered measures with meaningful and understandable results for patients and caregivers

Dr. Bernot also introduced NQF's draft rubric. The purpose of the rubric is to quantify how well a measure meets the prioritization criteria. Participants raised concerns that less defined measurement areas such as equitable care and patient-centeredness would receive lower scores in the scoring schema. NQF staff clarified that the rubric is still in its developmental stage and welcomed the participants' feedback on the weighting of the criteria. Following the meeting, NQF staff plan to collect further feedback via a survey.

Overview of Upcoming Spring 2018 Cycle

Ms. Dudhwala shared that NQF staff are anticipating 10 maintenance measures (focused on diabetes and osteoporosis) to be reviewed for the upcoming spring 2018 cycle. NQF staff will review the current Standing Committee and expert reviewer composition and adjust the Standing Committee for the upcoming spring 2018 cycle to ensure that the Committee has the appropriate expertise to review the spring 2018 cycle measures. NQF will send a notification in the coming weeks of any changes in status of Standing Committee members and expert reviewers. NQF reiterated that, due to the broad range of health topics reviewed in the Primary Care and Chronic Illness project, the Standing Committee composition would be re-evaluated for each cycle.

Ms. Dudhwala reiterated the role of the expert reviewers during the measure evaluation meetings. Expert reviewers are encouraged to attend web meetings and provide feedback through email and public comment; however, expert reviewers will not have voting capacity in the measure evaluation process.

Ms. Dudhwala reviewed the spring 2018 cycle timeline, including the web meetings, in-person meeting date, commenting periods, CSAC review, and appeals period with the Standing Committee and expert reviewers.

Public Comment

Ms. Dudhwala opened the web meeting to allow for public comment. No public comments were offered.

Next Steps

Madison Jung, project manager, reviewed the next steps for the Primary Care and Chronic Illness project. The NQF staff will be contacting Committee members and expert reviewers regarding their status for the upcoming spring 2018 cycle. The first meeting for spring 2018 cycle, the Measure Evaluation Tutorial Web Meeting, will take place on May 9, 2018 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm ET.