



# NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM

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## Memo

**May 28, 2021**

**To:** Primary Care and Chronic Illness Standing Committee

**From:** NQF Staff

**Re:** Post-comment web meeting to discuss public comments received and NQF member expression of support, and review consensus not reached measure

### Introduction

NQF closed the public commenting period for the measures submitted for endorsement consideration on April 28, 2021.

### Purpose of the Call

The Primary Care and Chronic Illness Standing Committee will meet via web meeting on May 28, 2021 from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM ET. The purpose of this call is to:

- Review and discuss comments received during the post-evaluation public and member comment period
- Review and discuss NQF members' expression of support of the measures under consideration; and
- Review consensus not reached measure and finalize recommendation.

### Standing Committee Actions

1. Review this briefing memo and [draft report](#).
2. Review and consider the full text of all comments received and the proposed responses to the post-evaluation comments (see comment table and additional documents included with the call materials).
3. Review the NQF members' expressions of support of the submitted measures.
4. Be prepared to provide feedback and input on proposed post-evaluation comment responses.

### Conference Call Information

Please use the following information to access the conference call line and webinar:

**Meeting link:** <https://nqf.webex.com/nqf/j.php?MTID=mea346a8510ba9157e9106eeef16455f1>

**Meeting number:** 173 198 4883

**Password:** YxfBGtST834

**Join by video system:** Dial 1731984883@nqf.webex.com

You can also dial 173.243.2.68 and enter your meeting number.

**Join by phone:** 1-844-621-3956 United States Toll Free

+1-415-655-0001 US Toll

**Access code:** 173 198 4883 [Global call-in numbers](#) | [Toll-free calling restrictions](#)

## Background

The most common contact point for many people within the United States (U.S.) healthcare system is their primary care provider. As such, primary care has a central role in improving the health of people and populations. Primary care practitioners work with each patient to manage the health of that individual. In the primary care setting, diagnosis and treatment focuses on the health of the entire patient and not a single disease. The review and evaluation of measures affecting primary care and dealing with chronic illness has long been a priority of NQF, with endorsement for such measures going back to NQF's inception. At present, there are 48 NQF-endorsed primary care and chronic illness measures. The background and description of NQF's most recent Primary Care and Chronic Illness Standing Committee meeting as well as previous meetings are available on NQF's project [webpage](#). This Standing Committee oversees the measurement portfolio used to advance accountability and quality in the delivery of primary care services.

On February 16, 2021, NQF convened the multi-stakeholder [Primary Care and Chronic Illness Standing Committee](#) consisting of 23 individuals to evaluate four newly submitted measures and three measures undergoing maintenance review against NQF's standard evaluation criteria. The Standing Committee recommended six measures for endorsement did not reach consensus on the remaining measure.

The Standing Committee recommended the following six measures:

- **NQF #0058** Avoidance of Antibiotic Treatment for Acute Bronchitis/Bronchiolitis (AAB) (National Committee for Quality Assurance)
- **NQF #0069** Appropriate Treatment for Upper Respiratory Infection (National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA))
- **NQF #3166** Antibiotic Prophylaxis Among Children with Sickle Cell Anemia (University of Michigan)
- **NQF #3568** Person-Centered Primary Care Measure PRO-PM (American Board of Family Medicine/Virginia Commonwealth University)
- **NQF #3595** Hydroxyurea Use Among Children with Sickle Cell Anemia (University of Michigan)
- **NQF #3599** Pediatric Asthma Emergency Department Use (Albert Einstein College of Medicine/University of California San Francisco)

The Standing Committee did not reach consensus on the following measure:

- **NQF #3532** Discouraging the routine use of occupational and/or supervised physical therapy after carpal tunnel release (American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons)

## Comments Received

NQF accepts comments on measures undergoing review in various ways and at various times throughout the evaluation process. First, NQF accepts comments on endorsed measures on an ongoing basis through the Quality Positioning System (QPS). Second, NQF accepts member and public comments during a 16-week comment period via an online tool on the project webpage.

### Pre-evaluation Comments

NQF accepts comments prior to the evaluation of the measures via an online tool on the project webpage. For this evaluation cycle, the pre-evaluation comment period was open from December 17 to January 21, 2021 for the measures under review. During the pre-evaluation commenting period, NQF received two comments, which were provided to the Committee prior to the measure evaluation meeting.

## Post-evaluation Comments

The draft report was posted on the project webpage for public and NQF member comment on March 30, 2021 for 30 calendar days. During this commenting period, NQF received four comments from two member organizations:

Member Council	# of Member Organizations Who Commented
Health Professional	1
QMRI	1

We have included all comments that we received (both pre- and post-evaluation) in the comment table (excel spreadsheet) posted to the Committee SharePoint site. This comment table contains the commenter's name, comment, associated measure, topic (if applicable), and—for the post-evaluation comments—draft responses (including measure steward/developer responses) for the Committee's consideration. Please note measure stewards/developers were asked to respond where appropriate. Where possible, NQF staff has proposed draft responses for the Committee to consider. Please review this table in advance of the meeting and consider the individual comments received and the proposed responses to each. Since the majority of the comments received (see attached comment table) were in support of the Committee's recommendations, the Standing Committee will use the post-comment web meeting to discuss and evaluate the measure where consensus was not reached.

## Consensus Not Reached

### ***NQF #3532 Discouraging the routine use of occupational and/or supervised physical therapy after carpal tunnel release (American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons)***

The Standing Committee reiterated concerns about capturing appropriate referrals and the unintended consequences of aiming for a 100% compliance target. While the measure passed on all criterion, the Standing Committee was not able to come to consensus on overall suitability. No comments were received.

**Committee Action:** Revote on overall suitability for endorsement.

- **NQF #3532** Discouraging the routine use of occupational and/or supervised physical therapy after carpal tunnel release (American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons)

## NQF Member Expression of Support

Throughout the 16-week continuous public commenting period, NQF members had the opportunity to express their support ("support" or "do not support") for each measure submitted for endorsement consideration to inform the Committee's recommendations. Two NQF members provided their expressions of support: See [Appendix A](#).

## Appendix A: NQF Member Expression of Support Results

Two NQF members provided their expressions of support/nonsupport. Three of seven measures under consideration received support from NQF members. Results for each measure are provided below.

### NQF #3568: Person-Centered Primary Care Measure PRO-PM (American Board of Family Medicine)

Member Council	Support	Do Not Support	Total
Health Plan	0	1	1
Health Professional	1	0	1
QMRI	1	0	1

### NQF #3166: Antibiotic Prophylaxis Among Children with Sickle Cell Anemia (University of Michigan/QMETRIC)

Member Council	Support	Do Not Support	Total
Health Professional	1	0	1

### NQF #3595: Hydroxyurea Use Among Children with Sickle Cell Anemia (University of Michigan)

Member Council	Support	Do Not Support	Total
Health Professional	1	0	1