



Primary Care and Chronic Illness Standing Committee Post-Comment Web Meeting

The National Quality Forum (NQF) convened a public web meeting for the Primary Care and Chronic Illness Standing Committee on June 30, 2020.

Welcome, Introductions, and Review of Web Meeting Objectives

Sam Stolpe, NQF senior director, welcomed participants to the web meeting. Dr. Stolpe provided an overview of the meeting objectives and conducted the Committee roll call. Co-chair, Adam Thompson, welcomed the Committee to the call.

Review and Discuss Public Comments Received

Dr. Stolpe reviewed the six measures that were recommended for endorsement by the Standing Committee during the Fall 2019 cycle—noting that three measure received comments. Dr. Stolpe reported that NQF received five comments on the draft report from three NQF member organizations during the 30-day commenting period. These comments addressed the following:

- Lack of risk adjustment results included in the testing forms
- Limiting exclusion language

Dr. Stolpe summarized the comments and the proposed Committee responses and then asked for feedback from the Committee. After some discussion between its members, the Committee expressed support for the responses drafted by NQF staff.

Measure-Specific Comments

0059 Comprehensive Diabetes Care: Hemoglobin A1c (HbA1c) Poor Control (>9.0%)

Commenters were concerned about the lack of risk adjustment results included in the testing forms for this measure. Commenters were also concerned the use of the word “and” in the exclusions. They noted that a person may not be coded as both frail as well as having advanced illness.

Committee Response

The Committee thanks the commenters for your comments and review of our work. The measure developer has explained the exclusion algorithm to identify frail patients with certain advanced conditions to the Committee’s satisfaction. This was done in the context of other exclusions. The Committee is satisfied with the measure as it was presented. During previous conversations with the developer, the Committee and the Scientific Methods Panel noted the challenges that the developer has related to securing appropriate data from plans to facilitate risk adjustments. While the Committee agrees that it is preferable to have this data to consider if risk adjustment is appropriate, this does not pose significant enough of a validity threat to warrant removal of endorsement at this time.

0061 Comprehensive Diabetes Care: Blood Pressure Control (<140/90 mm Hg)

Commenters were concerned about the lack of risk adjustment results included in the testing forms for this measure. Commenters expressed validity concerns related to not using blood pressure average readings per JNC-7 guidelines.

Committee Response

The Committee thanks the commenters for your thoughtful consideration of the measure. The Committee discussed the use of the last blood pressure reading during the original endorsement maintenance discussions and did not consider this a significant threat to the measure's validity. Moreover, during the Committee's discussion of the comments received, the developer noted that collecting medical records for all blood pressure readings throughout the year would significantly increase the burden associated with calculating the measure. While the Committee agrees that blood pressure reading averages are appropriate for care management at the individual patient level, the it feels that this population level measure is appropriately specified given the limitations in claims data and the challenges with alternatives. The Committee has noted that other comments were adequately addressed during endorsement review and comment consideration.

0575 Comprehensive Diabetes Care: Hemoglobin A1c (HbA1c) Control (<8.0%)

Commenters were concerned about the lack of risk adjustment results included in the testing forms for this measure.

Committee Response

The Committee wishes to thank the commenters for their comments. At this time, it has noted that these topics were appropriately discussed and resolved by the Committee during endorsement deliberations and consideration of other comments.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Next Steps

Dr. Stolpe reviewed next steps. The Committee will meet again in September 2020 for the spring 2020 post-comment web meeting. Dr. Stolpe also informed the Committee that the CSAC would consider the Committee's endorsement recommendations during its November 17-18, 2020 meeting.