



Task Order 01: Primary Care and Chronic Illness Fall 2020 – Post-Comment Web Meeting

The National Quality Forum (NQF) held a web meeting for the Primary Care and Chronic Illness Standing Committee on May 28, 2021, from 11 AM–12 PM ET.

Welcome, Review of Meeting Objectives, and Attendance

Shalema Brooks, MS, MPH, NQF director, welcomed the participants to the web meeting. The Committee co-chairs, Dr. Dale Bratzler and Adam Thompson, welcomed the Standing Committee to the web meeting. Erin Buchanan, MPH, NQF manager, conducted the Standing Committee roll call. Ms. Brooks provided an overview of the meeting objectives:

- Discuss and re-vote on the consensus not reached (CNR) measure
- Discuss any potential revisions to the Standing Committee’s recommendations and/or the draft report based on the comments received
- Discuss potential next steps

Sixteen Standing Committee members were present for the discussion, allowing the Standing Committee to re-vote on the consensus not reached measure. Ms. Brooks noted that during this review cycle, the Primary Care and Chronic Illness Standing Committee reviewed seven measures during the measure evaluation meeting on February 17, 2021. The Standing Committee recommended six measures for endorsement and did not reach consensus on one measure.

Discussion and Revote on Consensus Not Reached (CNR) Measure

NQF staff provided an overview of the process for discussing and re-voting on the measure that did not reach consensus. NQF clarified for the Standing Committee that during the post-comment measure review, the vote must exceed 60 percent of Standing Committee votes of “pass”; otherwise, it does not pass. During the meeting, the Primary Care and Chronic Illness Standing Committee voted on the measure for which consensus was not reached from the fall 2020 measure evaluation meeting.

Rating Scale: H – High; M – Medium; L – Low; I – Insufficient; NA – Not Applicable

NQF #3532 Discouraging the Routine Use of Occupational and/or Supervised Physical Therapy After Carpal Tunnel Release

Measure Steward/Developer Representatives at the Meeting

- N/A

Standing Committee Recommendation for Endorsement: Yes-16; No-0

This measure is intended to curtail the routine use of physical and occupational therapy after carpal tunnel surgery to prevent unnecessary use of healthcare resources. During the initial evaluation of this measure on February 16, 2021, the Standing Committee did not reach consensus on the vote for overall suitability for endorsement. During the post-comment meeting discussion, the Standing Committee

discussed the revote since no comments were received for this measure. The Standing Committee noted that this measure was discussed at length during the measure evaluation meeting. The Standing Committee also noted that this measure was only tested in Veterans Affairs (VA) facilities, which reflected a concern for performance in other settings since the VA is a closed system, which is less likely to exhibit wide variation than an open system. The Standing Committee also summarized that during the initial evaluation, concerns were raised about unintended consequences, such as whether there will be any incentive for people not to prescribe physical or occupational therapy when there is a very legitimate reason to do so during the usability discussion. The Standing Committee revisited the evidence regarding how often this measure is not met and noted that there was a small gap in performance. The Standing Committee re-voted and passed the measure on overall suitability for endorsement.

Related and Competing Discussion

During the discussion on the related and competing measures, the Standing Committee noted that NQF #3568 and NQF #3532 have no related measures. NQF #0728 *Asthma Admission Rate (PDI 14) (Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality)* and NQF #1381 *Asthma Emergency Department Visits (Alabama Medicaid Agency)* are related to NQF #3599. NQF #0058 *Avoidance of Antibiotic Treatment for Acute Bronchitis/Bronchiolitis (AAB) (NCQA)* and NQF #0069 *Appropriate Treatment for Upper Respiratory Infection (NCQA)* are related to each other. NQF #2797 *Transcranial Doppler Ultrasonography Screening Among Children With Sickle Cell Anemia (Q-METRIC – University of Michigan)* and NQF #3166 *Antibiotic Prophylaxis Among Children With Sickle Cell Anemia (QMETRIC - University of Michigan)* are related to NQF #3595. No concerns were raised about the related measures.

Public Comment

Isaac Sakyi, NQF senior analyst, opened the web meeting to allow for public comment. No public or NQF member comments were provided during the post-comment meeting.

Wrap-Up/Next Steps

Mr. Sakyi reviewed the next steps. The Standing Committee will meet again in June for the spring 2021 measure evaluation web meeting. Mr. Sakyi also informed the Standing Committee that the Consensus Standards Approval Committee (CSAC) will consider the Standing Committee's endorsement recommendations during its meetings on June 29–30, 2021. Following the CSAC meeting, the 30-day Appeals period will be held from July 7–August 5, 2021.