

Patient Outcomes: All-Cause Readmissions Expedited Review

Presentation to the Consensus Standards Approval
Committee

March 7, 2012



NATIONAL
QUALITY FORUM

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Agenda

- Project scope/status
- Overarching issues
- Comments received/Actions taken
- Voting results

Project Scope

- **Project Goals:**

1. Identification and endorsement of additional cross-cutting, non condition-specific measures for accountability and quality improvement that address all-cause readmissions to hospitals
2. All-cause hospital readmissions-related consensus standards that were endorsed by NQF before June 2009 will be evaluated under the maintenance process

- **Expedited Review Process**

Three criteria must be met prior to consideration by the Consensus Standards Approval Committee (CSAC) for an expedited review:

1. The extent to which the measures under consideration have been sufficiently tested and/or in widespread use
2. The scope of the project/measure set is relatively narrow
3. There is a time-sensitive legislative/regulatory mandate for measures

- **The submitted measures were evaluated according to NQF evaluation criteria**

Measures Recommended

Two measures were recommended for endorsement:

- **1789: Hospital-wide all-cause unplanned readmissions measure (HWR) (CMS/Yale)**
(Yes—14, No—5)
- **1768: Plan all-cause readmissions (NCQA)**
(Yes—13, No—6)

Measure Comparison

	#1789 (CMS/Yale)	#1768 (NCQA)
Readmission Type	All-Cause	All-Cause
Measure Type	Unplanned	Planned* and unplanned
Level of Analysis	Hospital	Health plan
Tested Population	<p>Medicare FFS/Commercial</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Condition categories (CCs) • 5 clinical cohorts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medicine • Surgery/Gynecology • Cardiorespiratory • Cardiovascular • Neurology 	<p>Medicare/Commercial</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hierarchical condition category (HCC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk weights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial under 65 (collected and reported) • Medicare under 65 (collected) • Medicare over 65 (reported) <p>Note: Commercial over 65 is excluded</p>
Risk Adjustment Method	Hierarchical logistic regression	Logistic

*Steering Committee recommended harmonization with CMS/Yale by annual update

Project Status

- Member and public comment period closed on January 20, 2012
- All 117 comments were addressed by the Steering Committee and developers had an opportunity to respond to comments on their measures
- Voting closed on Thursday, March 1, 2012 with two measures recommended for endorsement
 - **Draft report and comment table available on the [project page](#)**

Overarching Issues

- **Modeling approaches**
 - Statistical modeling and use of HLM
 - Selection of Covariates
 - » Hospital volume
 - » Adjusting for socioeconomic status
- **Usability for quality improvement**

Overarching Issues

- **Related and competing measures**
 - Hierarchical condition category vs. condition categories
 - Logistic or hierarchical modeling
 - Inclusion of structured cohorts
 - Exclusion of planned readmissions
 - Exclusion of cancer patients with planned readmissions
 - Counting readmissions as index admissions

Public and Member Comments

- 117 comments received from 43 organizations/individuals
- Major Themes:
 - Justification of an expedited review
 - Socioeconomic (SES) variables in the risk-adjustment model
 - Usability concerns
 - Support for harmonization
 - Inclusion/exclusion criteria
- Comment responses from NQF staff, measure developers & Steering Committee

Impact of Comments

The Committee members:

- encouraged measure developers to consider testing community-level SES variables (instead of patient level) that can be used in risk adjustment models that are reliable and valid
- encouraged CMS and other potential users to continue enhancing data platforms, timeliness of reporting and other aspects of measure implementation
- expressed a strong desire that the NCQA and CMS/Yale measures should be harmonized for both hospital and plan level measurement within a reasonable timeframe

NQF Member Voting Results:

1768: Plan all-cause readmissions (NCQA)

Measure Council	Yes	No	Abstain	Total Votes	% Approval*
Consumer	6	0	0	6	100%
Health Plan	6	0	0	6	100%
Health Professional	3	6	1	10	33%
Provider Organizations	4	14	5	23	22%
Public/Community Health Agency	1	0	0	1	100%
Purchaser	7	0	0	7	100%
QMRI	4	5	1	10	44%
Supplier/Industry	0	0	0	0	
All Councils	31	25	7	63	55%
Percentage of councils approving (>50%)					57%
Average council percentage approval					71%

*equation: Yes/ (Total - Abstain)

