

NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM

CALL FOR MEASURES: PATIENT OUTCOMES: ALL-CAUSE READMISSIONS EXPEDITED REVIEW PROJECT 2011

BACKGROUND

To achieve quality healthcare across the full continuum, there is a need for more measures that specifically address outcomes of care provided in our nation's healthcare system. Many outcome measures are inherently relevant because they reflect the reason consumers seek healthcare (e.g., to improve function, decrease pain), as well as reflect the treatment objective of healthcare providers.

To date, NQF has endorsed more than 100 outcome measures, most recently through the multi-phase Patient Outcomes project. However, many gaps remain, including those related to complications, all-cause readmissions, and mortality.

This project seeks to identify and endorse cross-cutting (not condition-specific) performance measures for accountability and quality improvement that specifically address all-cause readmissions to hospitals.

CALL FOR MEASURES

In this call, NQF is seeking cross-cutting (not condition-specific) performance measures for accountability and quality improvement that specifically address all-cause readmissions to hospitals.

This consensus standards endorsement project will be an expedited review. In order to meet the legislative deadlines required for implementation of all-cause readmissions measures, NQF will conduct an expedited review. The updated policy on the expedited review process was approved by the NQF Board of Directors in the fall of 2010 in order to meet emerging national needs.

Three criteria must be met prior to consideration by the Consensus Standards Advisory 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; and
- 3) There is a time-sensitive legislative/regulatory mandate for measures.

This project will include only measures that have been tested for reliability and validity, fit within the defined scope of hospital-wide all-cause readmission measures that are not condition-specific, and are needed for several federal programs including the National Patient Safety Initiative, Section 3025 of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) (Hospital Readmission Reduction Program), and Section 3026 of ACA (Community-based Care Transition Program).

In addition to new measures that will be submitted to this expedited review, NQF will include an already endorsed measure that is due for a full maintenance review against the updated measure evaluation criteria. The inclusion of this measure will ensure that the range of available all-cause readmissions measures are evaluated to determine which measures are "best in class", and/or are harmonized.

Measure Submissions Due By Monday, October 31, 2011 6:00 PM ET

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Any organization or individual may submit measures for consideration. To be included as part of the initial evaluation, candidate consensus standards must be within the scope of the project and meet the following general conditions as specified in the [measure evaluation criteria](#):

- A. The measure steward is in public domain or a [measure steward agreement](#) is signed.
- B. The measure owner/steward verifies there is an identified responsible entity and process to maintain and update the measure on a schedule that is commensurate with the rate of clinical innovation, but at least every three years.
- C. The intended use of the measure includes both public reporting and quality improvement.
- D. The measure must be fully specified and tested for reliability and validity.
- E. The measure developer/steward attests that harmonization with related measures and issues with competing measures have been considered and addressed, as appropriate.
- F. The requested measure submission information is complete and responsive to the questions so that all the information needed to evaluate all criteria is provided.

Measures without testing on reliability and validity will not be eligible for submission under this project.

To submit a measure, please complete the following:

- **online measure submission form (available on the project page)**
- [measure steward agreement](#)

Please note that materials will not be accepted unless accompanied by a fully executed [measure steward agreement](#). All materials not meeting this requirement will be returned to the sender.

Materials must be submitted using the online submission process by **6:00 pm ET on Monday, October 31, 2011**.

If you have any questions, please contact Alexis Forman, MPH or Taroan Amin, MA, MPH, at 202.783.1300 or readmissions@qualityforum.org. Thank you for your assistance.

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