

NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS TO STEERING COMMITTEE

Patient Outcomes: All-Cause Readmissions Expedited Review Project 2011

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.

Additionally, as part of this process, all-cause hospital readmissions-related consensus standards that were endorsed by NQF before June 2009 will be evaluated under the maintenance process. Endorsement maintenance provides the opportunity to harmonize specifications and to ensure that an endorsed measure represents the "best in class."

This consensus standards endorsement project will be an expedited review. In order to meet the legislative deadline 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.

BACKGROUND: NQF has endorsed one consensus standard applicable to all-cause hospital readmissions in the previous [National Voluntary Consensus Standards for Hospital Care 2007: Additional Performance Measures](#) project. Phase I of the [National Voluntary Consensus Standards for Hospital Care: Outcomes and Efficiency](#) project focused on endorsing hospital readmission measures.

STEERING COMMITTEE: A multi-stakeholder Steering Committee will oversee the development of a draft consensus report that will include recommendations for which measures should be endorsed as consensus standards. The draft consensus report will also include recommendations for measures undergoing maintenance that should continue as endorsed consensus standards.

Nominations Due By Monday, October 24, 2011 6:00 PM ET

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The Steering Committee membership should reflect expertise and possess relevant knowledge and/or proficiency in hospital care, outcome quality measurement and implementation, risk adjustment and/or clinical expertise to include, but not limited to, hospital readmissions, primary healthcare, emergency medicine, long-term care, nursing home, home health, care coordination, and patient care experience.

Steering Committee members should not have a vested interest in the candidate measures. This includes employees or contractors of measure owners/developers; members of workgroups that developed the measures; and members of committees that approve measures, or direct or set policy for measure development. Please see the NQF website for additional information about the [conflict of interest policy](#). All potential Steering Committee members must disclose any current and past activities during the nomination process.

The Steering Committee will work with NQF staff to develop specific project plans, provide advice about the subject, ensure input is obtained from relevant stakeholders, review draft products, and recommend specific measures and research priorities to NQF Members for consideration under the Consensus Development Process.

TIME COMMITMENT: *The Steering Committee will meet in person for a two-day meeting on December 5-6, 2011 in Washington, DC.* Committee members must be available to attend the meetings. Additionally, Steering Committee members will meet three to five times by conference call for two hours each and will be asked to review materials and provide feedback throughout the process. Additional conference calls may be needed. The introductory orientation call is mandatory for all Steering Committee members and is scheduled for **October 31, 2011, from 2:00-4:00pm ET**. An optional conference call will be held on November 16, 2011, from 3:00-5:00pm ET to address Committee members' questions about measure evaluation as they review the measures before the in-person meeting. There will be a mandatory post-comment period conference call on **January 31, 2012, from 2:00-4:00pm ET** to discuss the comments received on the measures and the responses.

CONSIDERATION AND SUBSTITUTION: Priority will be given to nominations from NQF Members. Please note that nominations are to an individual, not an organization, so "substitutions" of other individuals from an organization at conference calls are not permitted.

MATERIAL TO SUBMIT: Self-nominations are welcome. Third-party nominations must indicate that the individual has been contacted and is willing to serve. To be considered for appointment to the Steering Committee, please send the following information:

- a completed Nomination Form;
- confirmation of availability to participate in the orientation call on October 31; the December 5-6 in-person meeting; and the January 31 post-comment period call;
- a 2-page letter of interest and a short biography (750 characters), highlighting experience/knowledge relevant to the expertise described above and involvement in candidate measure development;
- curriculum vitae or list of relevant experience (e.g., publications) *up to 20 pages*; and
- a completed [conflict of interest](#) form.

Materials should be submitted through the project page on the NQF website.

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DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: All nominations *MUST* be submitted by **6:00 pm ET on Monday, October 24, 2011.**

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

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