

Patient Outcomes: All-Cause Readmissions Expedited Review

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NATIONAL
QUALITY FORUM

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Webinar Goals

Provides opportunity for clarification prior to voting:

- Project scope
- Measures Recommended for Endorsement
- Overarching Issues
- Comments received/Actions Taken

Project Scope

- **Goals of this project**

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 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
3. There is a time-sensitive legislative/regulatory mandate for measures

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

Project Status

- All comments were addressed by the Steering Committee and developers had an opportunity to respond to comments on their measures
- Member and public comment period closed on January 20.
- Voting opened Friday, February 17, 2012 with two measures recommended for endorsement
- Draft report and comment table available on the [project page](#)

Measures Recommended

- Recommended two measures 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)

Overarching Issues

- **Modeling approaches**
 - Statistical modeling and use of HLM
 - Selection of Covariates
 - Hospital volume—shrinkage issues
 - 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
 - Inclusion of patients with psychiatric conditions
 - Counting readmissions as index admissions

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

Clarifications to the draft report

- 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

Impact of Comments

- Due to the number of comments surrounding the issues of SES and usability, the Committee agreed to re-vote on whether Measures #1789 (CMS/Yale) and #1768 (NCQA) met the NQF criteria for endorsement
- Following the re-vote, both Measures #1789 and #1768 were recommended by the Committee for NQF endorsement
- Measure #1789 was recommended with the following recommendations:
 - *In order to support fair and appropriate comparisons, hospital performance on this measure should be reported within like comparison groups (e.g., disproportionate share hospitals); and*
 - *In order to support performance improvement and accountability, feedback to hospitals should be timely and provide information on all readmissions*

Impact of Comments

- 0329: Risk-adjusted 30-day all-cause readmission rate (UnitedHealthCare)
 - After the January 31st call, the Committee voted not to rediscuss Measure #0329 (Yes—7, No—12)
 - The Committee's recommendation to not recommend will remain

Next Steps

- NQF Member voting will end on Monday, March 1, 2012 at 6pm ET
- Voting results will be forwarded to CSAC for discussion at the March 7, 2012 in-person meeting

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Questions?