



Renal Standing Committee, Post-Comment Web Meeting

The National Quality Forum (NQF) convened a public web meeting for the Renal Standing Committee on September 7, 2018.

Welcome and Review of Web Meeting Objectives

NQF welcomed the Standing Committee and participants to the web meeting and reviewed the meeting objectives.

Review and Discuss Comments

NQF informed the Committee that the majority of the commenters supported the Committee's decision to not endorse the two measures under review. However, one commenter, the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), requested that the Committee reconsider its decision based on the following:

- The measures focusing on the waitlisting process are appropriate for improving access to kidney transplantation, especially given that dialysis facilities exert substantial control over an important set of activities that are related to waitlisting, starting with proper education of dialysis patients about the option for transplant, to referral of appropriate patients to a transplant center for evaluation, assisting patients with completion of the transplant evaluation process, and optimizing the health and functional status of patients in order to increase the patient's candidacy for transplant waitlisting. The waitlisting measures have high public value, as they will provide transparency on which dialysis facilities are doing a better job of assisting appropriate patients in being placed on the transplant waitlist.
- Sufficient evidence and appropriate rationale were provided to meet the Evidence criterion for both of the renal measures. The evidence demonstrates that the earlier a renal patient has access to transplantation, especially after starting dialysis, the better their chance for long-term survival, and that there is a wide variation in transplant waitlisting rates among dialysis facilities. Clearly there is a need for these transplant waitlisting measures in order to improve facility performance and ensure that appropriate renal patients are supported in the process of being placed on the transplant waitlist.
- A referral-based measure would not be sufficient. Given the important role of dialysis facilities in the process leading to waitlisting, there is a need for a more comprehensive measure to ensure that dialysis facilities are doing more than simply referring patients, but actually taking active steps to ensure that patients complete the transplant evaluation process, and that the health and functional status of patients are sufficient to support their candidacy for the transplant waitlist.
- The variance in transplant waitlisting is extremely troubling and ought to be addressed as soon as possible, especially in order to limit healthcare disparities for people of color.

The Standing Committee agreed that having a transplant measure is very important, but noted that the commenter did not provide any new information that would require them to reconsider the measures. The Standing Committee agreed to stand by their original recommendation.

NQF Member and Public Comment

No public or NQF member comments were provided during the measure evaluation meeting.

Next Steps

The measures and the Committee's recommendations will be shared with the CSAC on October 23-24, 2018.