



NATIONAL
QUALITY FORUM

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Risk Adjustment and Socioeconomic Status or Other Sociodemographic Factors Expert Panel Meeting January 15-16, 2014

National Quality Forum
Executive Building
1030 15th Street, NW, Suite 900
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 783-1300

AGENDA

(updated 01/13/14)

The purpose of this meeting is to:

- Objectively identify and examine the issues related to risk adjusting outcome performance measures for SES or other sociodemographic factors; and
- Develop draft recommendations related to if, when, for what, and how outcome performance measures should be adjusted for SES or other sociodemographic factors.

Please use the following information to access the conference call line and webinar:

Panel/presenter dial-in #: (888) 802-7237

Conference ID Day 1: 17211781

Conference ID Day 2: 17337380

Public dial-in #: (877) 303-9138

Conference ID Day 1: 17211781

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Webinar Link Day 1: <http://nqf.commpartners.com/se/NQFLogin/> Meeting Number: 40041

Webinar Link Day 2: <http://nqf.commpartners.com/se/NQFLogin/> Meeting Number: 890906

AGENDA

Day 1

8:00 Expert Panel – breakfast buffet

8:30 Welcome, Project Purpose, Scope, Timeline

- Recommendations related to if, when, for what, and how outcome performance measures should be adjusted for sociodemographic factors
 - Should apply broadly to outcome performance measures (e.g., principles, criteria,

- types of analyses, best practices)
 - Not about specific performance measures
 - Not about adjustment related to determining payment for providing service (e.g., capitation, casemix adjustment to base payment rate)
- Helen Burstin, MD, MPH, Senior Vice President, Performance Measurement, NQF (5 min)*
Suzanne Theberge, MPH, Project Manager, Performance Measurement, NQF (5 min)
Karen Pace, PhD, Senior Director, Performance Measurement, NQF (5 min)

8:45 Setting the Stage

- Goals for the meeting, review agenda
- Expectations for Panel discussions
- Key Definitions (risk adjustment, disparities, outcome performance measures)
David Nerenz, PhD, Co-chair (7-8 min)
- Review core principles
- Potentially competing goals and priorities (*valid performance measurement, identifying and reducing disparities, not making disparities worse*)
Kevin Fiscella, MD, MPH, Co-chair (10 min)

9:15 Expert Panel Introductions, Disclosure of Interests, and Perspective on Topic

- David Nerenz, Co-chair*
Ann Hammersmith, NQF General Counsel
- What is your perspective on the topic of risk adjusting outcome performance measures for sociodemographic factors and rationale?
All Expert Panel members will share their perspectives and be asked to suspend taking a final position until all the issues are fully examined.

10:20 Context

- NQF endorsement
 - Suitable for BOTH performance improvement and accountability applications
 - Uses of endorsed performance measures (including pay-for-performance)
- Evaluation criteria – validity and risk adjustment
- Case mix adjustment for performance measurement vs. payment for providing service (e.g., capitation, casemix adjustment to base payment rate)
Helen Burstin, Karen Pace (10 min)
- MedPAC recommendations related to SES and readmissions
David Nerenz (7 min)
- Clarifying Questions (5 min)

10:45 Break

10:55 Case Studies

- David Nerenz, Moderator*
- Brief description of the measure
 - What analyses were conducted related to sociodemographic factors?
 - Hospital unplanned readmissions
Susannah Bernheim, measure developer (10 min)
 - #2158-Medicare Spending per Beneficiary Measure
Sajid Zaidi, measure developer (10 min)

- Discussion (15 min)
- 11:30 Panel – Relationship of sociodemographic variables to other risk factors
Kevin Fiscella, Moderator (5 min)
- Presentations
- This panel will focus on the pathway and relationship to other variables that may capture the effect of sociodemographic factors**
- *Monica Bharel (5-6 min) – what is the relationship or pathway among homelessness, other sociodemographic variable, disease burden, and outcomes?*
 - *Thu Quach (5-6 min) – what is the relationship or pathway among limited English proficiency and outcomes?*
 - *Tia Sawhney (5-6 min) – how much variability in outcomes (cost) is explained by SES after accounting for diagnosis, age, sex?*
 - *Nancy Garret (5-6 min) – what is the relationship or pathway among SES, health-related behaviors (e.g., smoking), and outcome (diabetes)*
 - *Norbert Goldfield (5-6 min) – what is the relationship between clinical severity and sociodemographic variables?*
- Clarifying Questions and Answers (5 min) – *will fully discuss issues later*
- 12:15 Public Comment
- 12:30 Lunch break
- 1:00 Panel – Impact of including sociodemographic factors in risk models
David Nerenz, Moderator (5 min)
- Panel Presentations
- This panel will focus on the impact of including sociodemographic factors in risk models – i.e., changes in risk model metrics; additional amount of variability accounted for by sociodemographic factors beyond the clinical factors; changes in empirical reliability or validity analyses of performance scores with the addition of sociodemographic factors.**
- *Atul Grover (5-6 min) – how does dual eligibility approximate SES or other sociodemographic factors and what is the impact on outcome performance (readmission)?*
 - *Steven Lipstein (5-6 min) – what SES factors can be derived from census tract data and what is the impact on outcome performance (readmission)?*
 - *Eugene Nuccio (5-6 min) – what is the effect of including both patient-level and provider-level variables on the quality of the risk adjustment model?*
 - *Alyna Chien (5-6 min) – what is the impact of geocoded SES information for quality versus spending? – a tale of two projects*
- Clarifying Questions and Answers (5 min) – *will fully discuss issues later*
- 1:40 Disparities in Health and Healthcare Related to Sociodemographic Factors: Considerations for ***whether sociodemographic factors should be accounted for in outcome performance measurement***
Expert Panel Discussion
- Given the relationship between sociodemographic factors and health status or various patient outcomes:**
- To what extent do clinical and health status patient factors (e.g., co-morbidity, health status, severity of illness) account for the effect of the sociodemographic patient

variables (e.g., SES, race/ethnicity) on outcomes?

- What are the relationships (redundancy) between and among SES, race/ethnicity, or other sociodemographic factors and the clinical and health status factors that are already captured in many risk models?
- If age, clinical factors, and health status are in a model, does adding SES explain additional variation in the outcome?
- Do demographic factors of age, sex, and race represent biologic or physiologic differences (potentially reflecting or interactive effects) that directly affect clinical condition and health status? Do provider (e.g., average income of patients served) or community sociodemographic (e.g., average income of population) factors have a similar effect?
- To what extent are sociodemographic factors related to/correlated with quality of care?
 - Are the distributions of scores on risk-adjusted performance measures (without sociodemographic factors) significantly different for providers serving disadvantaged, average, and advantaged populations?
 - Can practices/ interventions moderate or mitigate the influence of sociodemographic factors on outcomes? (e.g., providing instructions in different languages, interpreters; prescribing generic vs. higher-cost brand name drugs; case managers/care navigators; post-hospital follow-up clinics)
 - Can the mitigation strategies be done without additional resources? Are healthcare providers responsible for adjusting care practices based on sociodemographic factors?
- What are the pros and cons of accounting for sociodemographic factors in outcome performance measurement?
- If payment for services is increased to account for the higher cost of caring for patients with certain sociodemographic factors, should equal outcomes be expected?
- Are there differences based on type of outcome or use of the performance measure? If so, rationale.

2:40 Methodological Considerations: Considerations for how sociodemographic risk factors should be selected?

Expert Panel Discussion

- What are the usual considerations for selecting risk factors? (briefing memo) – *Karen Pace*
- Are there any unique considerations for selecting sociodemographic risk factors?
- When should race be considered? If race is associated with outcomes (independent of measured SES), then what should be done? Does identifying the disparities-sensitive performance measures (essentially calling for stratification) address this issue?
- What standardized sociodemographic data are available for use now, in the future?
- When should provider or community-level factors be considered?
- Are there differences based on type of outcome or use of the performance measure? If so, rationale.

3:15 Break

3:30 Methodological Considerations: Considerations for how sociodemographic factors should be accounted for in outcome performance measurement?

Expert Panel Discussion

- General approaches to adjustment (statistical model, stratification within provider,

stratification to identify peer groups for comparison) – *Karen Pace*

- What are the pros and cons of various methods (e.g., stratification within providers, statistical risk model, stratification for peer groups)
- When should various methods be employed?
- Are there differences based on type of outcome or use of the performance measure? If so, rationale.

4:30 Summarize and Prepare for Recommendations

Kevin Fiscella, David Nerenz

- Summarize key themes – Considerations for:
 - whether sociodemographic factors should be accounted for in outcome performance measurement
 - how sociodemographic factors should be selected
 - how sociodemographic factors should be accounted for in outcome performance measurement
 - Are there differences based on type of outcome or use of the performance measure? If so, rationale.

5:15 Public Comment

5:30 Adjourn

Day 2

8:00 Expert Panel – breakfast buffet

8:30 Welcome, Goals, Review Agenda, Recap of Day 1, Clarifications

Kevin Fiscella, MD, MPH, Co-chair

Karen Pace

8:45 Principles and Goals that should be encompassed in the recommendations

- Core principles
- Additional principles and goals that emerged from panel deliberations

Kevin Fiscella

All Expert Panel members to weigh in to gauge consensus (yes, no, can live with)

9:35 Identify Potential Recommendations

Kevin Fiscella, MD, MPH, Co-chair

Karen Pace

As a group, list potential recommendations without discussion or evaluation

- Whether sociodemographic factors should be accounted for in outcome performance measurement
- How sociodemographic factors should be selected
- How sociodemographic factors should be accounted for in outcome performance measurement
- Are there differences based on type of outcome or use of the performance measure?

10:35 Public Comment

10:50 Break

11:00 Breakout groups to discuss potential recommendations

3 groups will discuss potential recommendations and address:

- Are there additional recommendations?
- How do the potential options align with agreed upon principles and goals?
- What are the pros and cons of each option including potential unintended consequences?
- Are there differences by type of outcome or use of the performance measure?
- What are the group's top recommendations?

12:30 Lunch break
1:00 Report out from small groups
1:45 Discussion of top recommendations
Working toward consensus (*yes, no, can live with*)
3:00 Break
3:15 Public Comment
3:30 Next Steps
4:00 pm Adjourn