



## Performance Measurement for Rural Small-Practice and Low-Volume Providers

The National Quality Forum (NQF) is seeking nominations for a multistakeholder Committee to provide input on performance measurement issues for rural small-practice and low-volume providers.

### BACKGROUND

#### What are we doing?

NQF will convene a multistakeholder Committee to provide recommendations to HHS regarding performance measurement issues for rural, low-volume providers, which include Critical Access Hospitals, Rural Health Clinics, Community Health Centers, and the clinicians who serve in these types of facilities. These providers often face unique issues, such as low payment volume and scarcity of resources that make measurement difficult. The Committee will consider how to mitigate these challenges in payment incentive programs for those providers; identify which measures are most appropriate for those programs; and recommend how future development resources are best directed to address particular measurement gaps areas.

#### Why now?

An estimated 10% to 28% of Americans live in rural areas, millions of whom receive care from the above-mentioned providers. The Affordable Care Act calls for several new CMS pay-for-performance programs, including the Hospital Value-Based Purchasing program and the clinician-based Value-Based Payment Modifier (VBPM). Information is needed to inform the gradual integration of facilities and clinicians paid through alternative systems and those with low case volume into these or other Federal payment incentive programs, the aim of which is to improve the quality of care for people who are served by these providers.

### COMMITTEE CHARGE

NQF will convene a multistakeholder Committee to provide input during all phases of the project. As with all NQF projects, the Committee will work with NQF staff to provide content expertise, ensure input is obtained from relevant stakeholders, review draft products, and make recommendations on specific performance measurement issues.

NQF is seeking nominations from various stakeholder perspectives including, but not limited to:

- Healthcare providers, clinicians, and practitioners across the continuum of care
- Consumers
- Purchasers and employers
- Payers

- Federal, state, and local government agencies
- Health insurers and plans
- Measure developers
- National policymakers
- Public health or community organizations
- Research entities

Each Committee member will contribute content knowledge and expertise over the course of the project, leading to the production of a written report with recommendations on performance measurement issues for rural providers. Committee members will assist with the identification of existing research, measures, and resources to identify performance measure needs and make recommendations for performance measure development and implementation.

## COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

### ***Terms***

The Committee will be composed of 15-20 individual members and will be appointed for the duration of the project, which ends on September 14, 2015.

### **Participation on the Committee requires a significant time commitment.**

In addition to providing ongoing guidance to the project, committee members are expected to engage in the following activities over a 12-month period:

1. Three web-based events;
2. One 2-day in-person meeting in Washington, DC with necessary travel expenses provided by NQF; and
3. Follow-up e-mail communications.

**Table of scheduled meeting dates**

| Meeting                 | Date/Time                      |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 2-hour web meeting      | January 6, 2015 at 3PM-5PM ET  |
| 2-day in-person meeting | February 5-6, 2015, 9AM-4PM ET |
| 2-hour web meeting      | March 19, 2015 at 1PM-3PM ET   |
| 2-hour web meeting      | July 29, 2015 at 1PM-3PM ET    |

## PREFERRED EXPERTISE & COMPOSITION

Committee members are selected to ensure representation from a variety of stakeholders, including consumers, purchasers, providers, professionals, plans, suppliers, community and public health, and healthcare quality experts. Because NQF attempts to represent a diversity of stakeholder perspectives on committees, a limited number of individuals from each of these stakeholder groups can be seated onto a committee.

Specifically, individuals with experience in rural health performance measurement, program implementation, quality measurement, and statistical methodology, as well as Medicaid program staff, low-volume clinicians, and representatives from CAHs, RHCs, and CHCs are encouraged to submit nominations.

**Please review the NQF Conflict of Interest policy to learn about how NQF identifies potential conflicts of interest.** All potential Committee members must disclose any current and past activities prior to and during the nomination process in order to be considered.

## CONSIDERATION & SUBSTITUTION

Priority will be given to nominations from NQF Members when nominee expertise is comparable. [Please note that nominations are for an individual, not an organization, so “substitutions” of other individuals is discouraged. Committee members are encouraged to engage colleagues and solicit input from colleagues throughout the process.]

## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Self-nominations are welcome, as are nominations from other individuals or organizations (these must indicate that the individual being nominated has been contacted and is willing to serve).

Please **submit** the following information:

- a completed [online nomination form](#), including:
  - a brief statement of interest
  - a brief description of nominee expertise highlighting experience relevant to the committee
  - a short biography (maximum 100 words), highlighting experience/knowledge relevant to the expertise described above
  - curriculum vitae or list of relevant experience (e.g., publications) *up to 20 pages*
- A completed disclosure of interest form. This form will be provided upon your submission of the online nomination form.
- Confirmation of availability to participate in the scheduled calls and meeting dates listed above. We will solicit this information upon your submission of the online nomination form.

## DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION

All nominations **MUST** be submitted by **6:00 pm ET on Monday, October 27, 2014.**

## QUESTIONS

If you have any questions, please contact Mitra Ghazinour, at 202-783-1300 or [mghazinour@qualityforum.org](mailto:mghazinour@qualityforum.org). Thank you for your interest.