

SES Trial Milestone

JANUARY- APRIL 2014

NQF convenes an Expert Panel to examine risk adjustment of performance measures for socioeconomic status (SES) and other demographic factors.

The Expert Panel's draft report recommends that NQF change its policy and allow measures to be risk adjusted for SES, when evidence warrants. The public comment period for the draft report yields a record 667 comments from 158 organizations.

MAY-JULY 2014

The Expert Panel refines its recommendation to reflect the public comment and submits its final report to the NQF Board.

The NQF Board votes overwhelmingly to temporarily change NQF policy to allow for risk adjustment of selected measures and establishes a trial period for this policy change to determine its impact.

The Board also calls for the establishment of a Disparities Committee that would be charged to enhance NQF's focus on reducing, and eventually eliminating disparities, through quality measurement. The Committee would also have a role in evaluating the SES trial.

AUGUST- DECEMBER 2014

NQF leadership and staff work to design the trial and brief its members, Congressional offices, media, and other key audiences about its rationale and purpose.

The NQF Board votes to endorse cost and resource use measures as well as all-cause admissions and readmissions measures with the conditions that:

- the relevant standing committee determine whether the measures in its projects should be included in the SES trial;
- a one-year, look-back assessment for unintended consequences be conducted.
- The **first measures** are identified for the inclusion in the SES trial, including three cost and resource use measures and 16 all-cause admissions and readmissions measures.

JANUARY- APRIL 2015

Design of the trial continues and NQF staff brief the measure developers on the need for a conceptual and empirical evaluation of measures entered in the trial.

NQF briefs members about the SES trial in a standing-room-only Q&A session at the NQF Annual Conference.

The SES trial officially opens for all newly submitted measures as well as measures undergoing endorsement maintenance review.

MARCH- JULY 2015

NQF adds specific guidance for measure developers regarding the SES trial to the **Measure Evaluation Criteria and Guidance for Evaluating Measures for Endorsement**.

NQF holds in-depth tutorials on the updates submission requirements and the goals trial with key measure developers, including the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Centers for Disease Control, The Joint Commission, CAMI, and FOTO.

NQF staff develops guidance for the standing committees to evaluate SES risk-adjusted measures, including how to interpret data, methods, and results from measure submissions.

The SES trial evaluation plan to track included measures is finalized and reflects input from risk adjustment and statistical experts.

The Cost and Resource Use Standing Committee convenes to discuss the potential for whether a conceptual relationship for SES adjustment exists for its three measures in the trial.

Thirteen of 24 measures from the Cardiovascular Phase 3 project are entered into the SES trial.

AUGUST- DECEMBER 2015

Nominations open for the Disparities Standing Committee commences. This 15-to 17-member Committee will advise NQF leadership on emerging issues in healthcare disparities. The Committee also will have a role in evaluating the SES trial.

The Cardiovascular Standing Committee convenes to review and provide its endorsement recommendations on the 13 measures included in the trial.

The All-Cause Admissions and Readmissions Standing Committee reviews the SES factors and variables that measure developers should test in their empirical analysis of the risk adjustment model for the 16 measures in the trial.

The Cost and Resource Use Standing Committee convenes to discuss the empirical analysis of the risk adjustment in the context of the validity criterion used for its three measures in the trial.

The measure developers for the admissions and readmissions measures begin work to compile data to conduct empirical analyses for risk adjustment.

JANUARY- MAY 2016

The Admissions and Readmissions Standing Committee convenes twice to review its 16 measures in the trial. In its review, the Committee:

- Discusses the empirical analysis of the risk adjustment approach in context of the validity criterion;
- Discusses the developer's decision to include or not include SES adjustment in the measure based on the empirical analysis provided; and
- Makes an endorsement recommendation for each measure:
 - Recommend continued endorsement, or
 - Recommend removal of endorsement.