



December 9, 2011

Janet Corrigan, PhD, MBA
CEO and President
The National Quality Forum
601 Thirteenth Street, NW
Suite 500 North
Washington, DC 20005

RE: Support for the Endorsement of Measure 1536: – Cataracts: Improvement in patient's visual function within 90 days following cataract surgery

Dear Dr. Corrigan:

On behalf of the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery Foundation, we are pleased to support the nomination for National Quality Forum endorsement of Measure 1536 – Cataracts: Improvement in patient's visual function within 90 days following cataract surgery. The measure was developed by the American Academy of Ophthalmology as part of the Surgery Endorsement Maintenance process and was recommended for endorsement by the CSAC at its November meeting.

Measure 1536 is a patient-reported outcome measure based on a visual function survey administered both before and after cataract surgery. The measure captures improvement in the patient's ability to perform activities of daily living from the patient perspective and serves as a compliment to clinical measures such as visual acuity after surgery. The measure will be paired with the Surgical CAHPS Survey developed by the Surgical Quality Alliance as part of the first ever outcomes-oriented group measure for ophthalmology for the 2012 Physician Quality Reporting System. Cataract is one of the most commonly billed procedures in Medicare, and the measure group has the potential to improve care and patient experience.

While objective clinical outcome measures are valuable indicators of surgical quality, the patient's perception of the outcome is a critical component to assessing the success of a surgical procedure. For this reason, measures of patient reported outcomes are a high priority for the surgery community. AAO-HNSF supports this measure as an example of the more innovative and outcome-oriented measures that the surgery community has been advocating

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for over the past several years, and we believe that it clearly meets the NQF criteria for importance, scientific acceptability, usability, and feasibility. We strongly support CSAC endorsement for Measure 1536.

Sincerely,

David R. Nielsen MD

David R. Nielsen, MD
Executive Vice President and CEO