



NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM

Driving measurable health
improvements together

Memo

July 1, 2020

To: Surgery Standing Committee

From: NQF staff

Re: Post-comment web meeting to discuss public comments received and NQF member expression of support

COVID-19 Updates

Considering the recent COVID-19 global pandemic, many organizations needed to focus their attention on the public health crisis. In order to provide greater flexibility for stakeholders and continue the important work in quality measurement, the National Quality Forum (NQF) extended commenting periods and adjusted measure endorsement timelines for the Fall 2019 cycle.

Commenting periods for all measures evaluated in the Fall 2019 cycle were extended from 30 days to 60 days. Based on the comments received during this 60-day extended commenting period, measures entered one of two tracks:

Track 1: Measures Continuing in Fall 2019 Cycle

Measures that did not receive public comments or only received comments in support of the Standing Committees' recommendations will be reviewed by the CSAC on July 28 – 29.

- **Exceptions**

Exceptions were granted to measures if non-supportive comments received during the extended post-comment period were similar to those received during the pre-evaluation meeting period and have already been adjudicated by the respective Standing Committees during the measure evaluation Fall 2019 meetings.

Track 2: Measures Deferred to Spring 2020 Cycle

Fall 2019 measures requiring further action or discussion from a Standing Committee were deferred to the Spring 2020 cycle. This includes measures where consensus was not reached or those that require a response to public comments received. Measures undergoing maintenance review will retain endorsement during that time. Track 2 measures will be reviewed during the CSAC's meeting in November.

The Surgery project does not have any Track 2 measures. The Surgery post-comment web meeting on July 13, 2020, may be repurposed for Spring 2020 measure evaluation if necessary. The July 13, 2020 meeting will be cancelled if it is not needed for Spring 2020 measure evaluation. A complete list of Track 1 measures can be found in [Appendix B](#).

Comments Received

NQF solicits comments on measures undergoing review in various ways and at various times throughout the evaluation process. First, NQF solicits comments on endorsed measures on an ongoing basis

through the Quality Positioning System (QPS). Second, NQF solicits member and public comments during a 16-week comment period via an online tool on the project webpage.

Pre-evaluation Comments

NQF solicits comments prior to the evaluation of the measures via an online tool on the project webpage. For this evaluation cycle, the pre-evaluation comment period was open from December 11, 2019 to May 28, 2020 for the measures under review.

Post-evaluation Comments

The draft report was posted on the project webpage for public and NQF member comment on March 30, 2020 for 60 calendar days.

NQF Member Expression of Support

Throughout the 16-week continuous public commenting period, NQF members had the opportunity to express their support (“support” or “do not support”) for each measure submitted for endorsement consideration to inform the Committee’s recommendations. No NQF members provided their expressions of support:

Appendix B: Fall 2019 Track 1 Measures

The following measures did not receive public comments or only received comments in support of the Standing Committees' recommendations and will be reviewed by the CSAC on July 28 – 29

- **NQF 0696** STS CABG Composite Score (The Society of Thoracic Surgeons)