



Surgery Standing Committee Web Meeting

The National Quality Forum (NQF) convened a public web meeting for the Surgery Standing Committee on May 3, 2018.

Welcome, Introductions, and Review of Web Meeting Objectives

Christy Skipper, NQF project manager, welcomed participants to the web meeting. Ms. Skipper made opening remarks and reviewed the following meeting objectives: to review and discuss comments submitted and have the Committee provide input on these comments.

Review and Discuss Comments

The Committee discussed three comments submitted on NQF #3357 *Facility Level 7-Day Hospital Visits after General Surgery Procedures Performed at Ambulatory Surgical Centers*. Comments submitted addressed measure specifications, measure validity, lack of sociodemographic risk adjustment, and whether the measure provides meaningful information on performance. In particular, comments questioned the inclusion of skin procedures in the measure specifications since general surgeons do not routinely perform these procedures. Comments also questioned whether skin procedures were included to boost centers with low case volumes, and expressed concerns that the measure would provide insufficient information for low-volume facilities.

Committee members stated they are satisfied with the developer's response to the public comments, and agreed that the inclusion of skin procedures is not detrimental to the measure. The Committee stated that skin procedures should be included because they are an increasing part of care provided at ASCs. They also noted that the measure fills a gap in care and provides valuable performance data to ASCs that they would not otherwise receive. The Committee also noted that the ability of the risk model to discriminate differences in patient characteristics could be improved (c-statistic = 0.69) and that they would like to see a more robust c-statistic and additional data on the upward mobility of patients when the measure is resubmitted for endorsement consideration.

Public Comment

One comment submitted during public comment concerned how the measure could be used to help inform the public about quality of care. The developer clarified that it is considering the best ways to communicate results of this measure in a way that is meaningful to patients. The commenter and the Committee emphasized the importance of patient-reported outcome measures in understanding whether the expectations of patients about their care are met.

Next Steps

Ms. Skipper informed the Committee that their discussion would be updated in the report and that the Committee's recommendations will be presented at the June 4-5 CSAC meeting.