



TO: Surgery Standing Committee  
FR: NQF Staff  
RE: Post-Comment Call to Discuss Public and Member Comments  
DA: June 29, 2015

## Purpose of the Call

The Surgery Standing Committee will meet via conference call on Monday, July 6, 2015 from 10:00am – 12:00pm ET. The purpose of this call is to:

- Discuss comments received during the post-evaluation public and member comment period.
- Provide input on proposed responses to the post-evaluation comments.
- Determine whether reconsideration of any measures or other courses of action is warranted.

Due to time constraints, during this call we will review comments by exception, in the case the Committee disagrees with the proposed responses.

## Standing Committee Actions

1. Review this briefing memo and [Draft Report](#).
2. Review all comments received and the proposed responses to the post-evaluation comments (see [Comment Table](#) and additional documents included with the call materials).
3. Be prepared to provide feedback and input on proposed post-evaluation comment responses.

## Conference Call Information

Please use the following information to access the conference call line and webinar:

**Speaker dial-in #:** (866) 599-6630 (*Committee Members and Measure Developers only*)

**Public dial-in #:** (855) 599-0737 (*Public Participants*)

(NO CONFERENCE CODE REQUIRED)

**Web Link:** <http://nqf.commpartners.com/se/Rd/Mt.aspx?998963>

**Registration Link:** <http://nqf.commpartners.com/se/Rd/Rg.aspx?998963>

## Background

During this second phase of the project, detailed in the [Phase 2 draft report](#), the 25 member [Surgery Standing Committee](#) evaluated four newly-submitted measures, one resubmitted measure, and nineteen previously-endorsed measures undergoing maintenance review against NQF's standard evaluation criteria. The Committee recommended twenty-two of these measures for endorsement (with one recommended for reserve status); one was not recommended and four were deferred. A decision on measure #0361 (Esophageal Resection Volume (IQI 1)) was deferred to allow the developer to develop a volume-mortality composite

measure to replace measures #0360 and #0361, as requested by the Standing Committee. Evaluated measures are listed by recommended endorsement status in the draft report.

## 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 prior to the evaluation of the measures via an online tool located on the project webpage. Third, NQF opens a 30-day comment period to both members and the public after measures have been evaluated by the full committee and once a report of the proceedings has been drafted.

### Pre-evaluation comments

The pre-evaluation comment period was open from January 28, 2015 to February 10, 2015 for 19 of the 24 measures under review. A total of 19 pre-evaluation comments were received. The Committee was provided all pre-meeting comments for consideration before, and during the in-person meeting discussions prior to making an endorsement recommendation.

### Post-evaluation comments

The Draft Report went out for Public and Member comment on April 17, 2015 to May 18, 2015. Due to a technical error related to the measures' status in NQF's measure management system, the online tool did not display separate commenting links for each individual measure. As a result, NQF held an additional 15-day commenting period from May 22, 2015 to June 5, 2015 to ensure that members and the public had full opportunity to provide input on the measures. During this commenting period, NQF received seven comments from three member organizations and one non-member organization:

Consumers – 0	Professional – 1
Purchasers – 0	Health Plans – 0
Providers – 3	QMRI – 0
Supplier and Industry – 0	Public & Community Health - 0

During the post draft report comment call, the Committee will review and respond to post-evaluation comments. All comments that NQF received (both pre- and post-evaluation) are included in the [Comment Table](#). This comment table contains the commenter's name, comment, associated measure, topic (if applicable), and—for the post-evaluation comments—draft responses for the Committee's consideration. Please refer to this comment table to view and consider the individual comments received and the proposed responses to each.

After comments are adjudicated, NQF staff will make revisions to the draft report including the accompanying measure discussions. These will be identified as red-lined changes. Please note that typographical errors and grammatical changes will not be red-lined, to assist in reading.