

# THE NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM

## Therapeutic Drug Management Quality

### CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The National Quality Forum (NQF) is pleased to announce initiation of the Steering Committee for the Therapeutic Drug Management Quality project to establish a national framework and set of voluntary consensus standards to evaluate and report a broad view of therapeutic drug management quality.

**OBJECTIVE :** The National Quality Forum (NQF) is seeking nominations for members of the Therapeutic Drug Management Quality Steering Committee. All nominations MUST be submitted by **6:00pm EDT, Monday, June 19, 2006.**

**BACKGROUND:** Advances in pharmaceutical science and technology are among the most important achievements of modern healthcare. Significant numbers of patients have improved quality of life, and hundreds of thousands of patients with previously fatal diseases now live with controlled chronic conditions with only transient acute illness due to modern drug treatments. Appropriate drug therapy management has significant impact on patient safety, equity, effectiveness, efficiency, and other domains of quality. Despite the past decade's explosion of activity in the measurement of healthcare performance, there has been relatively little focus on therapeutic drug management quality and its impact more broadly on overall patient care quality.

Although a comprehensive quality measurement framework and measurement set have not yet been endorsed, NQF has endorsed standards addressing several aspects of therapeutic drug management quality, including: measures of effective, evidence-based medication therapy; practices on safe use consistent with the "pharmaceutical care" practice model and on reporting errors; and, measures consistent with the "medication therapy services management" definition. In conducting this project, NQF would build upon its previous related work.

**COMPOSITION OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE:** The Steering Committee will comprise between 15 and 17 members, and will include representatives from each NQF Member Council. If a Council is not able to nominate a Committee member from a NQF Member organization, then representation from non-Member organizations will be considered if agreed upon by both the Council and NQF management. Nominees should have expertise in several of the following non-mutually exclusive areas:

- therapeutic decision making;
- effective, evidence-based medication therapy;
- safe use of therapeutic drugs;
- therapeutic drug adherence;
- avoidance of therapeutic drug errors, including prescribing, dispensing and administration errors;
- cost/benefit of medication selection;

- the “medication therapy management services” definition supported by the industry;<sup>1</sup> and,
- the “pharmaceutical care” practice model.<sup>2</sup>

**COMMITMENT:** The Steering Committee appointment is for the duration of the project; we anticipate the timeline for the project will span 18-24 months. Whenever possible, the Steering Committee will conduct business by telephone, e-mail, or other electronic means to minimize costs. It is anticipated that the Steering Committees will meet in-person two or three times over the course of the project.

Please note that nominations are to an individual, not an organization, therefore “substitutions” of other individuals from an organization at meetings are not permitted. If an individual is routinely unable to attend meetings or participate in conference calls once the appointment is made, a substitution from the same organization will be permitted only under very specific circumstances. Instead, depending on the timing, a new appointment will be made from the existing nominations or the slot will remain vacant.

**MATERIAL TO SUBMIT:** Self-nominations are welcome. Third-party nominations must indicate that the individual has been contacted and is willing to serve. To be considered for appointment to the Steering Committee, please send the following information:

- a 2-page letter of interest highlighting experience/knowledge relevant to performance measurement, public reporting, and areas relevant to therapeutic drug management quality;
- curriculum vitae and/or list of relevant experience (e.g., publications) *up to 20 pages*; and
- complete Nomination Form (attached), including all contact information requested for the nominated individual and nominator.

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<sup>1</sup> On July 27, 2004, eleven pharmacy-related organizations (Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy, the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, the American College of Apothecaries, the American College of Clinical Pharmacy, the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists, the American Pharmacists Association, the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy, the National Association of Chain Drug Stores, the National Community Pharmacists Association and the National Council of State Pharmacy Association Executives) agreed to a definition of “medication therapy management services.” Available at [http://www.aacp.org/Docs/MainNavigation/Resources/6308\\_MTMServicesDefinitionandProgramCriteria27-Jul-04.pdf](http://www.aacp.org/Docs/MainNavigation/Resources/6308_MTMServicesDefinitionandProgramCriteria27-Jul-04.pdf). Last accessed on February 15, 2006.

<sup>2</sup> In recent years, a more precise meaning has been developing for “pharmaceutical care.” A key stage in this development was a presentation made on October 11, 1989 by Douglas Hepler and Linda Strand at a conference on Pharmacy in the Twenty-First Century at Williamsburg, Virginia, which linked determination of the patient's needs with taking responsibility for seeing that those needs were met. Available at <http://www.managingmedicines.com/resource.php?page=glossary>. Last accessed on March 7, 2006.

**Materials should be forwarded by fax/U.S. mail, return receipt/overnight/hand delivery – no e-mail please.**

National Quality Forum  
ATTN: Therapeutic Drug Management Quality  
601 Thirteenth St, NW  
Suite 500North  
Washington, DC 20005  
FAX: 202.783.3434

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION:** All nominations MUST be submitted by **6:00pm EDT, Monday, June 19, 2006.**

**QUESTIONS:** If you have any questions, please contact Dianne Feeney at 202.783.1300 or [info@qualityforum.org](mailto:info@qualityforum.org). Thank you for your assistance!