Value Set Harmonization

Value Set Harmonization Committee Orientation

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12:30-2:00pm *ET*

NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM

Agenda at a Glance

- Welcome and Introductions

- Background on NQF

- Project Overview

- Role of the Committee

- Committee SharePoint Site

- Next Steps

Welcome and Introductions

NQF Project Staff

- Jason Goldwater
  - Senior Director
- Sharon Hibay
  - Senior Director
- Kathryn Streeter
  - Senior Project Manager
- Ann Phillips
  - Project Analyst

Committee Member Introductions

Value Set Harmonization Committee

- Zahid Butt, MD, FACG (co-chair)
- Michael Lieberman, MD MS (co-chair)

- Howard Bregman, MD, MS
- Chengjian Che, MD
- Christopher Chute, MD, DrPH
- Cynthia Cullen, MS, MBA, PMP
- Ellen Harper, DNP, RN-BC, MBA, FAAN
- Yan Heras, PhD
- Wendy Hofner, RN

- Stan Huff, MD
- Matt Humphrey
- Rute Martins, MS
- Robert McClure, MD
- Marjorie Rallins, DPM
- Joseph Schneider, MD, MBA, FAAP
- Ann Smith, RN, BSN, MSHA
- James Tcheng, MD, FACC, FSCAI, FESC
- Nancy Walker, MHA, RHIA

Background on NQF

NQF Mission

Board of Directors

Steering Committees

8 Membership Councils

Measures Application Partnership (MAP)

National Priorities Partnership (NPP)

CSAC, HITACH

Neutral Convener

Standards Setting Organization

1 Build Consensus

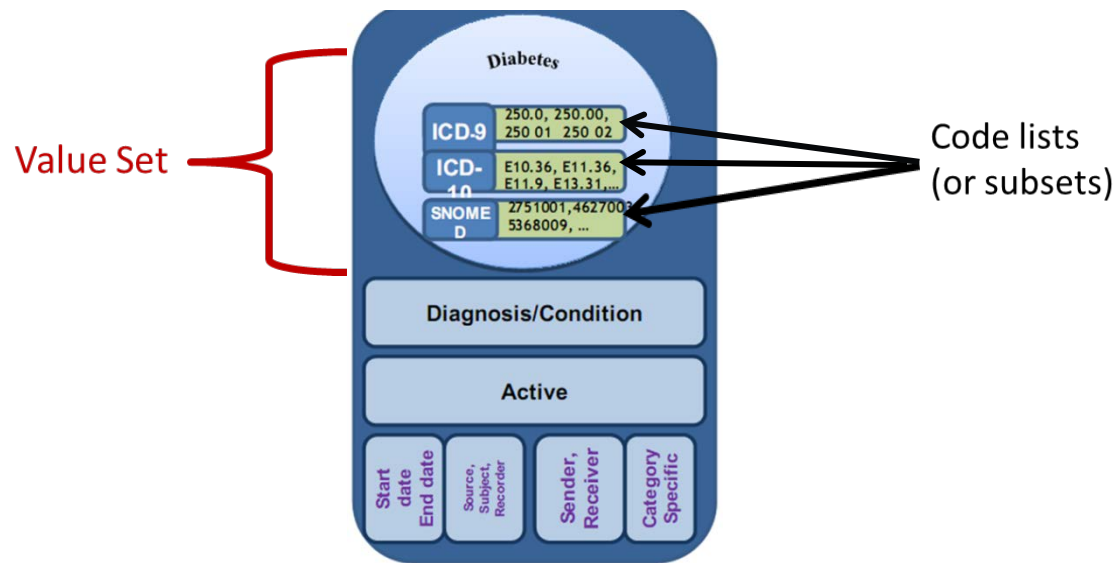2 Endorse National Consensus Standards

3 Education and Outreach

Project Overview

Background

- In 2012, the National Library of Medicine (NLM), in collaboration with the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), launched the Value Set Authority Center (VSAC).

- The VSAC provides downloadable access to all official versions of vocabulary value sets contained in the Meaningful Use Stage 2 (MU2) eMeasure specifications, also called the 2014 Clinical Quality Measures (eCQMs).

Background

- The value sets in the VSAC describe the specific populations and clinical actions included and excluded in order to properly calculate each of the 64 eCQMs for eligible professionals (EPs) and the 29 eCQMs for eligible hospitals (EHs) for the 2014 MU2 eCQMs.

Background

- Through the VSAC, the NLM is charged with value set "curation," which includes ensuring that value set codes are not incorrect or malformed, do not contain code system or code mismatches, and do not contain code and description mismatches

- However, to enable value sets to be used efficiently to build and maintain effective eCQMs, curation alone is not enough. There is also a need to validate the clinical meaning of codes given the intent of the measures and to assess multiple competing value sets addressing the same intended purpose in order to harmonize them.

Project Scope and Objectives

- NQF defines **value set harmonization** as the process by which unnecessary or unjustifiable variance will be eliminated from common value sets in eCQMs by the reconciliation and integration of competing and/or overlapping value sets.

- Under the guidance of the Value Set Committee, NQF will develop and pilot test a value set harmonization and approval process to promote consistency and accuracy in eCQM value sets.

- In addition, harmonized value sets will provide basis of gap analysis and for examination of face validity of value sets.

- The project will also offer guidance on how approved value set status should be integrated into the eCQM endorsement process

Project Scope and Objectives

The project will address the following issues:

- What are the harmonization criteria for value sets used in eCQM development, and when is value set harmonization applicable?

- Will measure developers be mandated to demonstrate they have actively utilized VSAC harmonized value sets in eCQM development?

- What components of the harmonization process apply to the review and approval of newly submitted value sets, and how should that process be structured?

Project Scope and Objectives

The project will address the following issues, cont.:

- What is the role of value set authors and stewards in responding to recommendations for changes or additions to value sets? Will value set harmonization be mandated if the author or steward is unable or unwilling to make suggested changes?

- How are recommendations for additions or changes in value set content integrated into the existing VSAC catalog?

- How does value set harmonization and approval integrate with or impact the measure endorsement process?

- How should developers anticipate the impact on measure development if value set approval and harmonization is an expected pre-condition for eCQM endorsement?

Project Timeline

Deliverable: Draft Processes

- Harmonization processes for resolving missing, duplicate, competing, or otherwise problematic value sets (April 30, 2015)
- Ground rules for measure developers on use of approved, harmonized value sets to build measures (April 30, 2015)
- Policies and procedures for coordinating value set harmonization work with the NLM's VSAC (April 30, 2015)

Deliverable: Evaluation of Value Set Harmonization Testing

- Measure #1 Evaluation (May 31, 2015)
- Measure #2 Evaluation (June 30, 2015)
- Measure #3 Evaluation (July 31, 2015)
- Measure #4 and #5 Evaluation (October 31, 2015)

Project Timeline

Deliverable: Final Processes (September 30, 2015)

- Harmonization processes for resolving missing, duplicate, competing, or otherwise problematic value sets
- Ground rules for measure developers on use of endorsed, harmonized value sets to build measures
- Policies and procedures for coordinating value set harmonization work with the NLM's VSAC

Deliverable: Project Report

- Draft Project Report (November 30, 2015)
- Public Comment on Draft Project Report (December 1, 2015- January 8, 2016)
- Final Project Report (March 31, 2016)

Role of the Value Set Committee

and the

Technical Expert Panel

Role of the Value Set Committee

- Provide guidance to develop a criteria for evaluation, harmonization and approval of value sets

- Evaluate the results of the harmonization process and develop an iterative approach to the harmonization and approval of value sets

- Provide broad recommendations on how harmonized and approved value sets should be integrated into the measurement endorsement process.

- Act as a proxy for the NQF multi-stakeholder membership and the general public through reviewing and adjudicating input from stakeholders and the public

Role of the Committee Co-Chairs

- Facilitate Committee meetings

- Work with NQF staff to achieve the goals of the project

- Assist NQF in anticipating questions and identifying additional information that may be useful to the Committee

- Keep Committee on track to meet goals of the project without hindering critical discussion/input

- Participate as a Committee member

Role of the Technical Expert Panel

- Use the process developed by the VSC to conduct the technical analysis and harmonization of value-sets related to each measure, with a special emphasis on consistently adjudicating the most complicated and judgment-dependent variance.

NQF SharePoint Site

- SharePoint will be the primary method of document sharing and collaboration for NQF Staff, the Committee and the Technical Expert Panel

- Documents
    - Project Documents
    - Roster and Bios

- Meeting, Calendar and Call Documents
    - Agenda, Call information, and meeting materials for each conference call and the in-person meetings

- http://share.qualityforum.org/Projects/Value%20Set%20Harmonization/SitePages/Home.aspx

- Support - web-help@qualityforum.org

Next Steps

- Travel logistics information sent from NQF Meetings Department
- In-person meeting of the full committee
  - April 21, 2015
- Post-Meeting Webinar
  - May 19, 2015
- Value Set Harmonization Evaluation Webinars
  - May 27, 2015
  - June 24, 2015
  - July, 31 2015
- In-person meeting of the full committee
  - November, 2015
- Post Draft Report Comment Call (2 hours)
  - February, 2016

Project Contact Info

- Jason Goldwater: jgoldwater@qualityforum.org

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- Ann Philips: aphillips@qualityforum.org

- Project team email: valueset@qualityforum.org

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Committee Discussion

THANK YOU!