NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM

Agenda

Variation in Measure Specifications Project 2015-2016
In-Person Meeting
February 23, 2016
8:30am – 5:00 pm ET

Participant Instructions:

Streaming Audio Online

- • Direct your web browser to: http://nqf.commpartners.com.
- • Under "Enter a Meeting" type in the meeting number: 205163
- • In the "Display Name" field, type in your first and last names and click "Enter Meeting."

Teleconference

Dial 1-877-303-9138.

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Meeting Objectives:

- Define variation and provide an initial assessment of its impact
- Provide direction on a framework for understanding and assessing variation
- Outline the structure of project deliverables, including a lexicon and taxonomy
- Identify new avenues of research to bolster the environmental scan

8:00 am	**Breakfast**
8:30 am	**Welcome, Introductions, and Review of Meeting Objectives** *Andrew Baskin, MD (co-chair)* *Blackford Middleton, MD, MPH, MSc (co-chair)* *Helen Burstin, MD, MPH, Chief Scientific Officer, NQF* *Debjani Mukherjee, MPH, Senior Director, NQF* *Andrew Lyzenga, MPP, Senior Director, NQF* *Amber Sterling, MPH, Project Manager, NQF* *Jean-Luc Tilly, Project Analyst, NQF*

9:00 am	**Understanding the Issue: Variation**
	• Key Questions
	    ○ *What words/language do we use to describe variation?*
	    ○ *What do we mean by variation?*

      o *What don't we mean by variation?*
      o *Why do we care about variation?*
      o *What are some sources of variation (i.e. based on purpose of measurement)?*
      o *When is variation being introduced in measure specifications?*

10:20 am   **Public Comment**

10:30 am   **Break**

10:45 am   **Creating a Framework to Understand Variation: Beyond the Definitions**
- Key Questions:
  - *What are the key elements of a framework for understanding variation?*
  - *What are the concepts and/or terms that will need to be defined as part of the framework?*

12:00 pm   **Lunch**

12:30 pm   **Variation: How, Where, What, and Why?**
- Group discussion to gain and discuss working examples of variation
- Key Questions:
  - *What are some examples of measure variation based on purpose of measurement (e.g., quality improvement, payment, reporting, etc.)?*
  - *What are the specific variations (i.e., differences in specifications) in these instances?*
  - *What are the causes of these variations?*
  - *What are instances of beneficial variation? How do we characterize beneficial variation?*
  - *What are the consequences of these variations (e.g., beneficial variation such as innovation, reduced comparability across measurement efforts, increased burden of data collection, etc.)?*

2:15 pm   **Break**

2:30pm   **Discuss Project Deliverables**
- Outlining Lexicon and Taxonomy
  - *How do we identify and categorize different types of variation?*
  - *How do we assess whether variation is or isn't appropriate?*
  - *What are the terms or concepts that should be included in the lexicon?*
- What strategies or approaches can help mitigate inappropriate variation?
  - *What are threats and barriers to achieving the desired state?*
  - *What stakeholders need to be involved in these efforts?*
- How can we use our time together effectively to iteratively develop and refine project deliverables?

4 :00 pm   **Committee Input on Environmental Scan and Key Informant Interviews**
- What are other potential resources to investigate for the environmental scan?
- Who should we target for key informant interviews?

4:50 pm   **Public Comment**

5:00 pm   **Adjourn**