



## Variation in Measure Specifications Project 2015-2016

### BACKGROUND

The increasing focus on issues of quality, cost, and efficiency in healthcare has led to a proliferation of measures across a diverse range of clinical areas, settings, data sources and programs, and there is growing recognition that measures being used in various programs (e.g., at the federal, state, and community levels) are often not well-aligned with each other – different programs will frequently use similar but slightly modified measures despite intending to address the same fundamental quality issue. This leads to a number of challenges, including confusion for stakeholders, a high burden of data collection for healthcare providers, and difficulties when trying to compare performance across similar measures.

NQF is initiating a project focused on Variation in Measure Specifications to identify how, where, and why variation is occurring across current measures; to create a framework for understanding and interpreting the different types of variation across measures and the implications of this variation; and to develop a common understanding around key terms, concepts, and measure components to help standardize measurement efforts and minimize unnecessary variation.

### COMMITTEE CHARGE

As part of this project, NQF will convene a multi-stakeholder Expert Panel to provide leadership, guidance, and input on the following tasks:

- Conduct an environmental scan to assess the current landscape of measure variation
- Develop a conceptual framework for use in defining, identifying, and interpreting variations in measure specifications and evaluating the effects of those variations
- Develop a lexicon of standardized definitions for a limited number of key measurement terms, concepts, and components that are known to be common sources of variation in otherwise-similar measures
- Develop a taxonomy to organize and classify the contents of the lexicon
- Provide recommendations for future consideration in this area, including core principles and guidance on how to mitigate variation and improve comparability across new and existing measures, and other activities that could help advance comparability in the future.

### COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

The Expert Panel will include approximately 15 individuals seated for one year.

**Participation on the Panel requires a significant time commitment. To apply, Panel members**

**should be available to participate in all currently scheduled calls/meetings.** Over the course of the Panel member's term, additional calls will be scheduled or calls may be rescheduled; new dates will be set based on the availability of the majority of the Panel.

**Panel participation includes:**

- Participate in the Expert Panel Orientation Web Meeting
- Participate in both Expert Panel In-Person Meeting, including:
  - Prioritize framework elements
  - Offer guidance on structure and content of lexicon
  - Identify potential challenges
  - Review and comment on report drafts
- Participate in three Expert Panel Web Meetings, including:
  - Review and comment on report drafts
  - Refine lexicon and taxonomy
  - Identify core principles for comparability

**Table of scheduled meeting dates**

Meeting	Date/Time
Expert Panel Orientation Meeting (1 hour)	January 22, 2016 at 2:00PM-4:00PM ET
Expert Panel In-Person Meeting #1	February 23, 2016
Expert Panel Web Meeting #1 (2 hours)	March 31, 2016 at 2:00PM-4:00PM ET
Expert Panel Web Meeting #2 (2 hours)	May 25, 2016 at 2:00PM-4:00PM ET
Expert Panel In-Person Meeting #2	June 29, 2016
Expert Panel Web Meeting #3 (2 hours)	September 8, 2016 at 2:00PM-4:00PM ET
Expert Panel Web Meeting #4 (2 hours)	November 3, 2016 at 2:00PM-4:00PM ET

## PREFERRED EXPERTISE & COMPOSITION

Expert Panel members are selected to ensure representation from a variety of stakeholders, including consumers, purchasers, providers, professionals, health plans, suppliers, community and public health, and healthcare quality experts. Because NQF attempts to represent a diversity of stakeholder perspectives on committees, a limited number of individuals from each of these stakeholder groups can be seated onto a committee.

NQF will seek relevant expertise in measure development; measure implementation; measurement science; informatics; and development and use of public reporting and pay-for-performance programs. NQF will ensure that the representation of the Expert Panel is well-balanced with community-oriented perspectives, representative of the populations that use

public reporting programs and participate in pay-for-performance programs.

**Please review the NQF [Conflict of Interest Policy](#) to learn about how NQF identifies potential conflicts of interest.** All potential Expert Panel members must disclose any current and past activities prior to and during the nomination process in order to be considered.

## CONSIDERATION & SUBSTITUTION

Priority will be given to nominations from NQF Members when nominee expertise is comparable. Please note that nominations are to an individual, not an organization, so “substitutions” of other individuals is not permitted. Committee members are encouraged to engage colleagues and solicit input from colleagues throughout the process.

## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Nominations are sought for individual subject matter experts. Self-nominations are welcome. Third-party nominations must indicate that the individual has been contacted and is willing to serve.

To nominate an individual to the Expert Panel, please **submit** the following information:

- A completed [online nomination form](#), including:
  - a brief statement of interest
  - a brief description of nominee expertise highlighting experience relevant to the committee
  - a short biography (maximum 100 words), highlighting experience/knowledge relevant to the expertise described above
  - curriculum vitae or list of relevant experience (e.g., publications) *up to 20 pages*
- A completed disclosure of interest form. This will be requested upon your submission of the nominations form for Committees actively seeking nominees.
- Confirmation of availability to participate in currently scheduled calls and meeting dates. Committees or projects actively seeking nominees will solicit this information upon submission of the online nomination form.

## DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION

All nominations ***MUST*** be submitted by **6:00 pm ET on Friday, December 4, 2015.**

## QUESTIONS

If you have any questions, please contact Amber Sterling or Andrew Lyzenga at 202-783-1300, or email [measurevariation@qualityforum.org](mailto:measurevariation@qualityforum.org). Thank you for your interest.