

The Quality Community: January 2016

The NQF Quality Community: Members Make it Happen!

We are developing an exciting engagement calendar for 2016 to help you get the most from your membership. Look for these new and improved opportunities in the months ahead:

- **On-Demand Education Resources.** You asked, and we heard you. We are building an array of on-demand education resources about measurement and NQF's work so that you can learn on your schedule. Resources will include short videos, brief interviews, highlights of recent reports, and much more.
- **In-Person Workshops.** Last fall, we offered our first day-long education workshop for Members. We will bring back this highly popular format again this year and are planning two in-person workshops in 2016.
- **Taking the Show on the Road.** This year, we will hold Member-exclusive events in cities across the country so we can meet and connect with you in person in your community.
- **Growing NQF Member Networks.** Last year, we launched three Member Networks focused on NQF's work in renal health, health information technology, and cancer. In 2016, we will launch additional Networks that help Members track and participate in the cross-cutting, clinical, and [measurement science issues](#) they care about most.



Join Us! NQF's 2016 Annual Conference

NQF's 2016 Annual Conference, "[Re-engineering Quality Data for Value](#)," April 7-8, is only a few months away! Take advantage of early bird registration rates for a limited time only. Keynote presentations and special sessions include:

- **Bruce Siegel, MD**, president and CEO of America's Essential Hospitals and chair of NQF's Board of Directors: *NQF's role in health and healthcare and measurement science*

- **David Bailey, MD**, president and CEO of Nemours Children's Health Systems: *Impact of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) on quality measurement*
- **Marilyn Tavenner**, president and CEO of America's Health Insurance Plans and former CMS Administrator: *Setting a course for health coverage and payment in a post-ACA environment*
- **Senator Bill Cassidy, MD (R-LA)**: *Healthcare policy and health information technology (HIT)*
- **Billy Beane**, executive vice president, Baseball Operations, Oakland Athletics: *Lessons learned from using data and analytics to drive change in Baseball*

This much-anticipated conference is *the* premier networking event for Members, who receive reduced registration fees, invitations to special events, and more. Don't miss out. [Register today!](#)



Register Now for these Member Events

Member-exclusive events are opportunities for NQF Members to come together, learn from each other, and learn more about the most important topics facing quality improvement. Please join us for these great opportunities to network with others who also care deeply about advancing health and healthcare:

- **January 14 (4:00 pm ET), [Member Meet-Up: A Measurement Science Overview and an Early, Close Look at Measure Variation](#)**. As measurement becomes increasingly consequential, [NQF's portfolio of measurement science work](#) is expanding. The key goal is to clear the way for next-generation measures that the rapidly evolving health system demands. [Helen Burstin, MD, MPH](#), NQF's Chief Scientific Officer, will discuss the emerging field of measurement science and how NQF is driving the next generation of measures.
- **January 28 (1:00-2:30 pm ET), [National Quality Partners \(NQP\): Understanding Personal Preferences and Values in Advanced Illness Care—Lessons from Spiritual Counselors, Social Workers, and Therapists](#)**. Participate in this virtual forum to hear about NQP's approach to improving advanced illness care; learn approaches to eliciting, understanding, and being responsive to the preferences, values, and goals of individuals with advanced illness; apply best practices and lessons learned from exemplar community and provider programs; and discuss opportunities to collaboratively advance quality measurement and improvement. Ask questions and share ideas and expertise with the panel.



Transition Update: Full Steam Ahead

The Executive Committee of NQF's Board of Directors is committed to moving ahead swiftly to identify NQF's new leader in order to continue the organization's strong, forward momentum. This month, the Executive Committee approved a search committee that will be led by Lewis G. Sandy, MD, Executive Vice President, Clinical Advancement, UnitedHealth Group. Joining Dr. Sandy, the members of the search committee include:

- Leonardo Cuello, JD, staff attorney, National Health Law Program
- Laurel Pickering, MPH, president and CEO, Northeast Business Group and Health (NEBGH)
- David Shahian, MD, vice president, Center for Quality and Safety, Massachusetts General Hospital
- Kate Goodrich, MD, director, Center for Clinical Standards and Quality, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

The search committee's first order of business is to select a search firm through a competitive process, with the goal of beginning a national search in March. The Board hopes to have an initial set of candidates identified by mid-May.

Video: Who Uses Measures and Why?

Watch the new NQF video about the Quality Community. Measures are used every day by many stakeholders in the healthcare system—patients, families, providers, and many more:





Policy Highlights

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orin Hatch (R-UT) and Ranking Member Ron Wyden (D-OR) requested input about how to streamline and improve quality measures used in the Medicaid program from NQF and other organizations. [NQF's response \(PDF\)](#) focuses on measures that the federal government might consider requiring for reporting and details measure gaps for this population. There are currently no federal reporting requirements for Medicaid, which now covers 72 million Americans. There has been a notable increase in states' voluntarily reporting on core measures over the past several years. The response also describes NQF's important work in the area of endorsing measures and [recommending core measure sets for adults and children](#) covered by Medicaid.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has released a draft plan outlining a strategic framework for future clinician-level measure development under the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA), which includes new payment models for clinicians. The CMS Quality Measure Development Plan (MDP) recommends ways to close measurement gaps that CMS has identified in current quality measure sets that are required reporting by physicians and other clinicians providing care for Medicare beneficiaries. As part of this plan, CMS will review the gap analyses conducted by the NQF-convened Measure Applications Partnership. CMS is soliciting public comment on the draft MDP through March 1 and is expected to post the final MDP by May 1, followed by annual updates.

Contact Us!

If you have questions about your Membership or would like more information about NQF programs, please [contact the Membership team](#).

