NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM

October Measure Developer Webinar

October 23, 2019

Overview of Presentation

- Context for Improvement Activities
- Changes to Intent to Submit Process
- Changes to the Scientific Methods Panel (SMP) Process
- Submission Reminders and Updated Guidance
- Measure Developer Resources
- Important Dates
- Questions

Context for Improvement Activities

2017 Redesign of the CDP

- Motivation for the redesign
  - *Stakeholder concern about NQF's agility*
    - » Time from measure submission to measure endorsement
    - » Timeliness of measure evaluation/wait time for available projects
- Approach
  - *Kaizen event on May 18-19, 2017, using LEAN tools*
- Participants
  - *>40 attendees + NQF staff/consultants*
  - *Public and private sector stakeholders*
    - » CMS and other federal agencies
    - » NQF standing committee members
    - » Measure developers

Some of the Major Elements of the Redesign

- Scheduling/frequency: Two evaluation cycles per year
  - *Topic area consolidation (from 22 to 15)*
- Intent to Submit process
  - *Meant to help facilitate planning of evaluations*
  - *Required for implementation of the SMP*
- Scientific Methods Panel (SMP)
  - *Reduce standing committee (SC) burden*
  - *Promote consistency in evaluation of reliability and validity*
  - *Encourage greater participation in SCs by* consumers, patients, and purchasers

Scientific Methods Panel

- Established to :
  - *Promote more consistent evaluations of Scientific Acceptability criterion*
  - *Reduce standing committee burden*
  - *Hopefully—promote greater participation of consumers, patients, and purchasers on NQF standing committees*

- Webpage:
  https://www.qualityforum.org/Measuring_Performance/Scientific_Methods_Panel.aspx

Methods Panel Charge

- Conduct evaluation of complex measures for the criterion of Scientific Acceptability, with a focus on reliability and validity analyses and results
- Serve in an advisory capacity to NQF on methodologic issues, including those related to measure testing, risk adjustment, and measurement approaches.

Advisory Function

- Advice on methodologic issues related to measure testing, risk adjustment, and measurement approaches
  - *Thresholds or rules of thumb for rating reliability and validity*
  - *Approaches to testing*
  - *Approaches for risk-adjustment*
  - *Testing requirements and ratings for reliability and validity*
- Recommendations are non-binding
  - *Changes to criteria/guidance subject to review and approval by the* Consensus Standards Approval Committee (CSAC)
- Advisory discussions will be the focus of bi-monthly calls

Internal Process Improvement Efforts

- Specific Areas Targeted for Improvement
  - *Overall efficiency of activities within the ITS period*
  - *Transparency of the SMP evaluation process*
  - *Opportunities for developers to respond to SMP comments for consideration within the same evaluation cycle*
  - *SMP "gatekeeper" of complex measures (failed measures not reviewed by the Standing Committee)*

- Approach
  - *Stakeholder surveys and other stakeholder feedback*
  - *Address problem statements*
  - *Process mapping*
  - *Eliminate waste*

Changes to the Intent to Submit Process

Key Improvements - Measure Intake

Current process	Improvements
• Staff identifies measures that do not meet minimum criteria for endorsement review and notifies developer	• No change
• Staff identifies minor edits needed by developer prior to sending to SMP ➢ Developers have 48 hours to update submission	• Staff will no longer perform this detailed review

NQF Measure Intake Assessment

- NQF likely will remove measures from the evaluation cycle for the following issues:
  - *Testing not performed at requisite levels (data element and/or measure score)*
    - » Varies based on measure type
  - *Testing that does not align with specifications*
  - *Administrative claims measures not specified and/or tested using ICD-10 codes*
  - *Non-response to critical submission form items*
- Will give a 48-hour revision period, but won't be able to offer extensions if the measure is going to the SMP

Changes to the SMP Process

Key Improvements - SMP Structure and Transparency

Current process	Improvements
• SMP currently includes 22 members	• SMP membership expanded to ~30 individuals
• SMP is convened over a series of 8 conference calls divided amongst 4 subgroups	• SMP to meet in person twice per year
• Subgroup meeting agenda posted publicly	• All SMP meeting materials will be posted publicly
• No public commenting during conference calls	• Allow opportunity for public commenting at SMP meeting

Key Improvements - Developer Engagement with SMP

Current process	Improvements
• Developers can only respond verbally to questions/concerns during the subgroup calls (additional documentation after submission is not permitted)	• Developers will have 5 days to respond in writing to SMP preliminary analyses before final vote; can also respond to SMP questions during the meeting

Developer Engagement with the SMP

- NQF will provide developers the “raw” preliminary analyses (PA) comments from each subgroup member assigned to evaluate the measure
- Developers will have 5 business days to review the PAs and provide written responses to any concerns or issues raised in the PAs (if desired)
- NQF will append any written responses to meeting materials (for the SMP review) prior to the in-person evaluation meeting
- Final voting on the measure will take place at the in-person meeting
- Any changes to the submission or testing form will take place during post commenting period

Key Improvements - SMP Gatekeeper Role

Current process	Improvements
• Measures that pass R/V or are CNR and pass are forwarded to Committee for evaluation and final recommendation	• No Change
• Measures that do not pass the SMP do not go to Committee for review, discussion, or vote ➢ Short summary of rationale for not passing is provided to Committee	• Committee members will have the opportunity to pull a measure for discussion (with a rationale) ➢ Detailed SMP summary, specifications, and testing attachment will be provided to Committee ➢ Committee members can re-vote on eligible measures (as approved by NQF staff and Co-chairs)

Committee Consideration of Measures that Do Not Pass the SMP

- Any measure pulled by a Standing Committee member will be discussed
- Some measures may be eligible for vote by the Standing Committee
  - *Eligibility will be determined by NQF Staff and committee co-chairs*
  - *Not eligible for re-vote if failed due to:*
    - » Inappropriate methodology or testing approach applied to demonstrate reliability or validity
    - » Incorrect calculations or formulas used for testing
    - » Description of testing approach, results, or data is insufficient for SMP to apply the criteria
    - » Appropriate levels of testing not provided or otherwise did not meet NQF's minimum evaluation requirements

Committee Consideration of Measures that Do Not Pass the SMP

- For measures eligible for vote by the Committee:
  - *The full Committee must vote on whether to uphold the SMP's vote on R/V*
    - » Vote to Uphold→ No further discussion of the measure
    - » CNR or Vote to overturn SMP Vote→ SC discusses and votes on R/V
- Maintenance Measures
  - *Committee must vote to remove endorsement*
    - » Regardless of whether it is pulled for discussion by an SC member

Submission Reminders and Updated Guidance

Submission Reminders

- ***All*** measures must be submitted **in full** by the measure submission deadline (regardless of SMP evaluation decision)
- Now enforcing ICD-10 testing requirements
  - *NQF may relax this requirement on a case-by-case basis, but this must be approved prior to submission*
- Testing must align with specifications
  - *Not a new requirement, but NQF is more rigorously upholding this requirement, particularly for level of analysis and minimum sample sizes*
- eCQMs: Demonstration of data element validity now required
  - *If data element testing is not possible, justification is required and must be accepted by the Standing Committee*

New and Maintenance Measures: ICD-10 Coding

- Performance Gap: Gap information should be based on ICD-10 coded data, if using the ICD classification system
- Scientific Acceptability: Reliability and validity testing should be based on ICD-10 coded data
  - *If providing face validity only: both face validity of the ICD-10 coding scheme and face validity of the measure score as an indicator of quality are required*

Maintenance Measures

- Empirical validity testing is expected at time of maintenance evaluation
  - *If not possible, justification is required and must be accepted by the Standing Committee*
- Use is current must-pass for maintenance of endorsement
  - *Includes requirements for use in accountability programs and in public reporting*
  - *Also includes requirements regarding feedback*
  - *"Usability" subcriterion not must-pass*

Submission Reminders

- Extensions for measures going to the SMP cannot be granted
  - *If you need an extension, contact the NQF maintenance team and arrange for submission in a subsequent cycle*
- Maintenance measures that failed the SMP in fall 2017, Spring 2018, Fall 2018, Spring 2019:
  - *Had 3-cycle grace period to maintain endorsement and resubmit*
  - *Measures will need to be re-submitted within this grace period in order to maintain endorsement*
- Complex maintenance measures are evaluated by the SMP if testing has changed since last submission
  - *If no changes, NQF staff evaluate R/V*

Updated Guidance – Reliability Testing

- If reporting results from a signal-to-noise analysis
  - *Typically should provide more than just one overall statistic*
  - *Information according to sample size preferred*

Example

Sample size	Mean	SD	Min	10th %ile	25th %ile	50th %ile	75th %ile	90th %ile	Max
10+									
20+									
50+									
100+									
200+									

Updated Guidance – Validity Testing

- If presenting score-level validation, the following is now expected
  - *Narrative describing the hypothesized relationships*
  - *Narrative describing why you think examining these relationships (e.g., correlating measures) would validate your measure*
  - *Expected direction of the association*
  - *Expected strength of the association*
  - *Specific statistical tests used (more detail is better)*
  - *Results*
  - *Interpretation of those results (including how they related to hypothesis and whether they have helped to validate the measure)*

Measure Developer Resources

Technical Assistance and Resources

- NQF staff will provide Technical Assistance during the submission process – just ask!
  - *Staff will provide feedback on a draft submission before the submission deadline*
- Resources on the Submitting Standards web page
  - *Measure Developer Guidebook – updated annually*
    - » Explains the NQF process and expectations for developers
  - *Evaluation algorithms for evidence, reliability and validity*
    - » Found in the Criteria and Guidance document
    - » You should have a good idea what the Committee evaluation is likely to be using the algorithms for these criteria
  - *What Good Looks Like - examples of good submissions*

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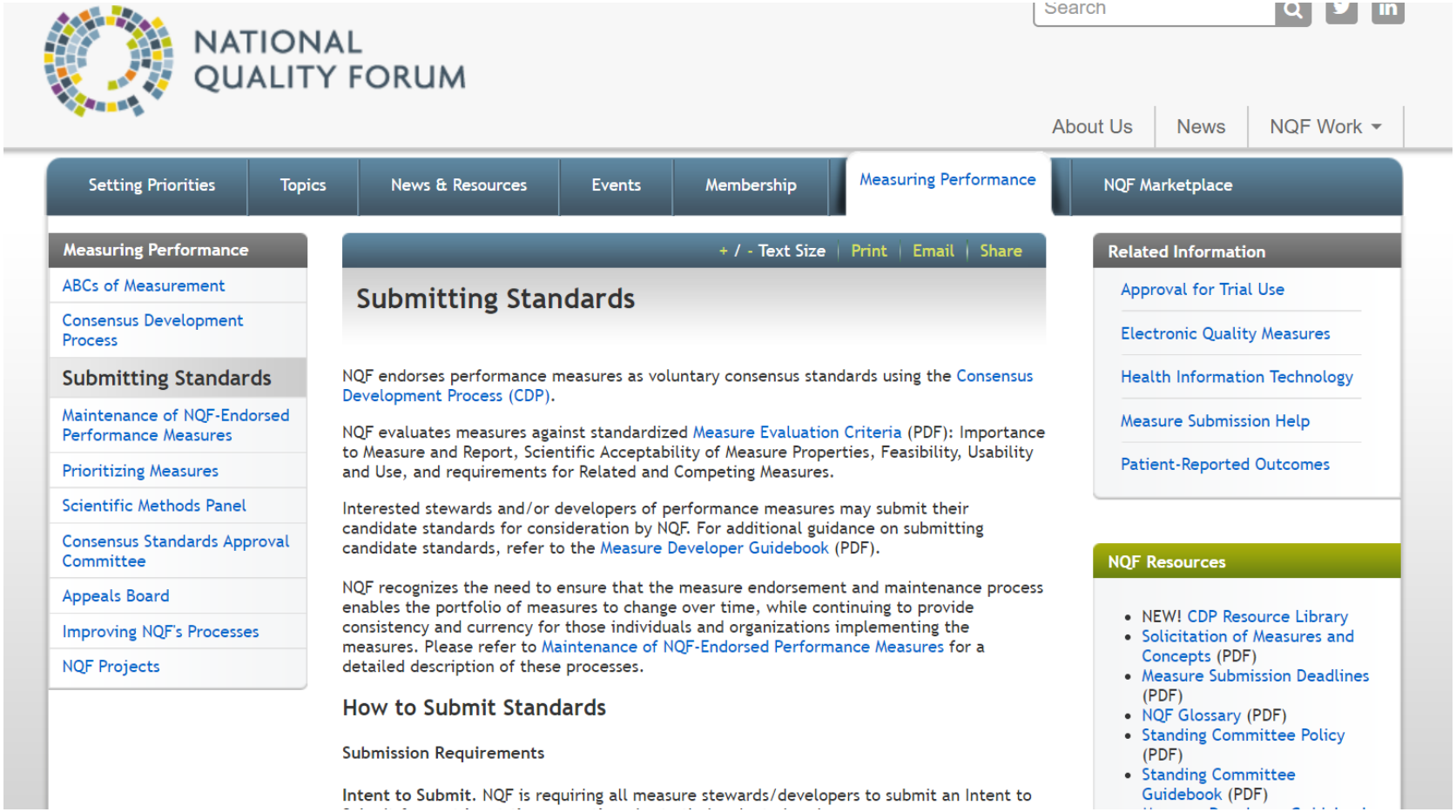
Submitting Standards Web Page Resources

- Criteria and Guidance Document
- Measure Developer Guidebook – updated annually
  - *Explains the NQF process and expectations for developers*
- Evaluation algorithms for evidence, reliability and validity
  - *Lays out the logic that committees will use for rating Evidence, Reliability, and Validity subcriteria*
- What Good Looks Like: examples of good submissions
- Blank copies of submission forms
- Resource libraries
  - *Recordings of SMP and Developer Webinar meetings*
  - *On-demand educational recordings*
  - *TIPs for delvelopers*

Bookmark this page!

http://www.qualityforum.org/Measuring_Performance/Submitting_Standards.aspx



Resource Libraries

Submitting Standards

NQF endorses performance measures as voluntary consensus standards using the Consensus Development Process (CDP).

NQF evaluates measures against standardized Measure Evaluation Criteria (PDF): Importance to Measure and Report, Scientific Acceptability of Measure Properties, Feasibility, Usability and Use, and requirements for Related and Competing Measures.

Interested stewards and/or developers of performance measures may submit their candidate standards for consideration by NQF. For additional guidance on submitting candidate standards, refer to the Measure Developer Guidebook (PDF).

NQF recognizes the need to ensure that the measure endorsement and maintenance process enables the portfolio of measures to change over time, while continuing to provide consistency and currency for those individuals and organizations implementing the measures. Please refer to Maintenance of NQF-Endorsed Performance Measures for a detailed description of these processes.

How to Submit Standards

Submission Requirements

Intent to Submit. NQF is requiring all measure stewards/developers to submit an Intent to Submit form ***at least three months*** prior to their selected cycle.

An Intent to Submit form will notify NQF of the measure steward/developer's readiness to submit measures for endorsement consideration. This form will allow NQF to adequately plan for new measures that are being submitted and for maintenance measures that are ready for re-evaluation in the various topic areas, as well as provide measure stewards/developers an opportunity for technical assistance prior to submitting their

Approval for Trial Use

Electronic Quality Measures

Health Information Technology

Measure Submission Help

Patient-Reported Outcomes

NQF Resources

- NEW! CDP Resource Library
- Solicitation of Measures and Concepts (PDF)
- Measure Submission Deadlines (PDF)
- NQF Glossary (PDF)
- Standing Committee Policy (PDF)
- Standing Committee Guidebook (PDF)
- Measure Developer Guidebook (PDF)
- Measure Developer Resource Library

Consensus Development (CDP) Resource Library

Reference Pages

Edit	URL
	Improving NQF's Processes
	Scientific Methods Panel
	Consensus Development Process
	Intent to Submit
	The ABC's of Measurement
	Measure Developer Resource Library

NQF Education Resource Documents and Recordings

Type	Name	Modified	Modified By
	CDP Redesign Resources	6/6/2018 12:31 PM	Desmirra Quinnonez
	NEW! Measure Developer Resources	7/13/2018 1:58 PM	Desmirra Quinnonez
	NQF's Intent to Submit Resources	6/11/2018 12:18 PM	Desmirra Quinnonez
	NQF's Measure Evaluation Criteria Resources	8/22/2018 1:48 PM	Kathryn Goodwin
	NQF's Scientific Methods Panel	7/13/2018 1:56 PM	Desmirra Quinnonez

Staff Team Contacts

Last Name	E-mail Address
General NQF Inquiries	info@qualityforu
Measure Maintenance Team	measuremainter
Membership Team	members@quali
Scientific Methods Panel	methodspanel@

Tips for Measure Developers

General Reminders

- Refer to the NQF Submitting Standards web page for numerous resources specifically for developers:
  - Measure Developer Guidebook: general process guidance
  - Measure Evaluation Criteria: detailed overview of NQF's measure requirements
  - Submission deadlines: key dates for project/topic area measure submissions
  - Measure Developer Resource Library: includes recordings of past developer webinars
  - "What Good Looks Like": sample measure submissions
  - Submitting Standards: includes guidance and reports on all of the major criteria
- Attend the monthly measure developer webinars to ensure you are up to date with NQF timelines and process changes.
- Contact measuremaintenance@qualityforum.org for general inquiries or questions related to the Consensus Development Process (CDP), measure evaluation criteria, or technical assistance.
- Check your dashboard regularly and verify the correct measure developer/steward contacts are listed. If this changes, please notify NQF immediately via the appropriate project mailbox. NQF uses the contacts listed in the dashboard to send updates and reminders about deadlines related to your measure.

Measure Submission

- Seek technical assistance from NQF staff early and often. Measure submission deadlines are firm and extensions will not be granted. If you would like NQF staff to provide input on your draft submission, please contact the NQF project team and request technical assistance well in advance of the deadline.
- Submitting a measure includes two important deadlines: the Intent to Submit deadline and the measure submission deadline.
  - **The Intent to Submit deadline** occurs three months prior to the measure submission deadline and requires a testing attachment. "Intent to Submit" information will be due every year on January 5 and August 1.
    - *For new measures*, you will need to complete a new intent to submit form by starting a new measure submission. Once you have indicated what type of measure you have (single/paired or grouped/ or a composite), you will be taken to the Intent to Submit screen. Here you will complete the required information

Questions???

Important Dates

- Intent to Submit Deadline: **January 6, 2020**
- SMP in-person meeting: **October 28-29**
- Full Measure Submission Deadline: **April 1-15, 2019**

- NQF Annual Conference: **March 23-24, 2020**
  - *Driving Value Through the next Generation of Quality*
  - *Discussions include:*
    - » Approaches to driving improved value in the pharmaceutical landscape
    - » The role of healthcare quality in artificial intelligence
    - » The future of population health: addressing challenges and advancing opportunities
- Have questions? Contact us at:
  - *measuremaintenance@qualityforum.org*

Thank you!