

THE NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM

POLICY ON ENDORSEMENT OF PROPRIETARY PERFORMANCE MEASURES

NQF endorsed measures shall comport with the following:

1. Entities shall have equal access (e.g., via the web) to the specifications and a charge shall not be assessed for the specifications themselves.
2. All measures specifications shall be open source – i.e., fully disclosed. By “open source” and “fully disclosed”, NQF means:
 - a. The data elements shall be fully described and disclosed.
 - b. The measure algorithm, if applicable, shall be fully described and disclosed.
 - c. The risk adjustment method, data elements, and algorithm shall be fully described and disclosed. If calculation requires database-dependent coefficients that change frequently, the existence of such coefficients shall be disclosed, the general frequency with which it changes shall be disclosed, but the precise numerical value assigned need not be disclosed because it varies over time.
3. Providers shall be permitted to use measure specifications without charge, but when final data analysis/calculation requires obtaining, for a fee, access to database-dependent coefficients, this fact shall be disclosed when the measure is submitted to NQF *and* obtaining access to database-dependent coefficients shall not be restricted by the owner to a single vendor (either the measure owner or another entity).*
4. The measure developer and/or holder of the intellectual property rights for the measure shall agree to certain disclosure requirements and execute NQF’s standardized agreement to this effect.
5. Measure developers shall not be required to fully disclose specifications to all parties at the outset of consideration – i.e., disclosure may be staged but the developer must agree at the time the measure is submitted that full disclosure of the specifications will occur and will not involve further negotiation. Specifically, full disclosure to NQF staff and the Steering Committee only as confidential business information may initially be requested. If a measure is recommended by the Steering Committee, however, full disclosure of the specifications as in clause 2 shall be required.

* For purposes of national public reporting, nothing in this policy should be construed to mean the use of vendors under this clause is required.