



## NQF Scientific Methods Panel

### BACKGROUND

NQF relies on four criteria for evaluating the suitability of healthcare performance measures for endorsement as voluntary consensus standards: Importance to Measure and Report, Scientific Acceptability of Measure Properties, Feasibility, and Usability and Use. The second criterion, Scientific Acceptability of Measure Properties, refers to the reliability and validity of measures. The use of measures that are unreliable or invalid undermines confidence in measures among providers and consumers of healthcare. NQF's measure evaluation criteria can be viewed as a hierarchy that guides the sequential process for evaluating measures. If a measure is not important, its other characteristics are less meaningful. If a measure is not scientifically acceptable, its results may be at risk for improper interpretation. To ensure higher-level and more consistent evaluations of the scientific acceptability of measure properties, NQF established the Scientific Methods Panel in 2017.

### PANEL CHARGE

The Scientific Methods Panel has two specific charges:

- Evaluate complex measures for the criterion of scientific acceptability, with a focus on reliability and validity analyses and results; and
- Serve in an advisory capacity to NQF on methodologic issues related to measure testing, risk adjustment, and emerging measurement approaches.

The Panel provides NQF standing committees with evaluations of the scientific acceptability of measures, using NQF's standard [measure evaluation criteria](#). Specifically, the Panel assesses measures for reliability and validity, both of which are "must-pass" criteria for NQF endorsement.

The Panel's feedback is critical input for standing committees' endorsement recommendations, especially for more complex measures such as outcome measures, instrument-based measures (e.g., PRO-PMs), cost/resource use measures, efficiency measures, and composite measures, among others. The Panel also provides guidance to NQF for methods/testing-related issues, and modifications to NQF evaluation criteria.

### PANEL STRUCTURE

NQF would like to expand the size of the Scientific Methods Panel to 25 to 30 members. Thus, we are looking to seat up to 8 to 12 new members.

New Panel members will be randomly appointed to an initial two- or three-year term, with an optional two-year term to follow.

**Participation on the Panel will require a significant time commitment. To qualify, prospective Panel members should be available to participate in all scheduled calls/meetings (dates below).**

Over the course of the Panel member’s term, additional calls/meetings will be scheduled or rescheduled; new dates will be set based on the availability of the majority of the Panel.

Panel participation includes the following (estimated times may vary depending on the number and complexity of the measures under review):

- Evaluate relevant measure submission information during two semiannual endorsement cycles (approximately 2 hours per measure). NQF anticipates that each Panel member will be assigned 5 to 10 measures for per evaluation cycle
- Complete all surveys and evaluations
- Attend scheduled measure evaluation webinars, conference calls, and/or in-person meetings (including, potentially, one full day in Washington, DC, for each endorsement cycle)
- Attend scheduled calls to discuss various methodologic issues (either monthly or bi-monthly)
- Participate in additional calls/meetings as necessary

#### **Upcoming Meeting Dates**

<b>Meetings</b>	<b>Dates/Times</b>
<b>Orientation Webinars</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Webinar #1: Introduction &amp; Process Overview</li> <li>• Webinar #2: Criteria &amp; Evaluation Tutorial</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• August 26, 2019, 1-3pm ET</li> <li>• August 28, 2019, 1-3pm ET</li> </ul>
<b>Fall 2019 Cycle Measure Evaluation In-Person Meeting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• October 28-29, 2019 (Tentative; hold these dates)</li> </ul>
<b>Monthly (1 hour) or bi-monthly (2 hour) calls</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Second Thursday of every month</li> </ul>

#### **PREFERRED EXPERTISE & COMPOSITION**

NQF is seeking statisticians, epidemiologists, psychometricians, economists, performance measure methodologists, and individuals with expertise related to eQMs and disparities in healthcare. Nominees should possess relevant knowledge and/or proficiency in methodology, implementation of measures, and/or broad clinical expertise that would lend itself to the evaluation of complex performance measures.

Please review NQF’s [Conflict of Interest Policy](#) to learn about how NQF identifies potential conflict of interest. All potential Scientific Methods Panel members must disclose any current and

past activities prior to and during the nomination process in order to be considered. All potential Panel members must complete a disclosure of interest form during the nomination process in order to be considered and will be required to submit a measure-specific disclosure of interest form when individual measures are assigned for review.

## CONSIDERATIONS

Preference will be given to individuals with prior experience on an NQF standing committee. Individuals currently serving on other NQF committees may continue that service while on the Scientific Methods Panel, if desired. (Please note that nominations are for an individual, not an organization, so “substitutions” of other individuals are not allowed.)

## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Self-nominations are welcome. Third-party nominations must indicate that the individual has been contacted and is willing to serve. All nominations remain active for one year.

To nominate an individual to the Scientific Methods 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 Panel
  - a short biography (maximum 100 words), highlighting experience/knowledge relevant to the expertise described above and involvement in candidate measure development
  - 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 submission of the nominations form.
- Confirmation of availability to participate in currently scheduled calls and meeting dates.

## DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION

All nominations *MUST* be submitted by **6:00 pm ET on July 16, 2019**.

## QUESTIONS

Please contact NQF Scientific Methods Panel staff at 202-783-1300 or [MethodsPanel@qualityforum.org](mailto:MethodsPanel@qualityforum.org) with any questions. Thank you for your interest.