

THE NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM

NOTICE OF INTENT TO SUBMIT STANDARDS FOR PATIENT SAFETY

NQF is initiating a consensus development project seeking endorsement of measures for patient safety. Under this project, NQF will identify and endorse cross-cutting patient safety measures across conditions, populations, and settings of care. The formal NQF "Call for Measures" will be announced on Monday, January 4, 2010.

NOTICE TO MEASURE STEWARDS

If, after reviewing this Notice of Intent, your organization believes it has one or more measures that address the scope and objectives of this project as described below and would like NQF to evaluate them for possible endorsement, please submit a [notice of intent to submit candidate standards](#) by **December 28, 2009**. Instructions for submitting this information are given at the end of this document.

BACKGROUND

In November 2008, the National Priorities Partnership (NPP) deemed Patient Safety as one of the six national priorities, with specific focus on reduction of hospital-level mortality rates, serious adverse events, and healthcare associated infections. Among the NQF inventory of 550 endorsed measures, approximately 100 measures relate to patient safety. In addition, NQF has endorsed 34 safe practices in the 2009 update of the Safe Practices for Better Healthcare and 28 Serious Reportable Events. The Safe Practices, SREs, and NQF-endorsed patient safety measures are important tools for tracking and improving patient safety performance in American health care. However, significant gaps remain in the measurement of patient safety. There is also a recognized need to expand available patient safety measures beyond the hospital setting and harmonize safety measures across sites and settings of care. In order to fill these gaps and to develop a more robust set of safety measures, NQF will be soliciting patient safety measures to fill gap areas and to address environment-specific issues with highest potential leverage for improvement (e.g., healthcare associated infections (e.g., MRSA), culture of safety, and hospital standardized mortality rates).

SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES

NQF will solicit candidate standards for review, evaluation and potential endorsement as national voluntary consensus standards for patient safety. The overall goal of the project is to establish national, multi-stakeholder voluntary consensus on current performance standards ready for immediate implementation, and on recommendations for priority areas for research and measure development.

THE NQF PROCESS

All notices of intent to submit measures must be submitted by
6:00 p.m. ET on Friday, December 28, 2009.

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The candidate measures will be considered for NQF endorsement as voluntary consensus standards. Agreement around the recommendations will be developed through NQF's formal Consensus Development Process (CDP). This project will involve the active participation of representatives from across the spectrum of healthcare stakeholders and will be guided by a Steering Committee with assistance from technical advisors as needed.

Any organization or individual may submit measures for consideration. To be evaluated, candidate consensus standards must meet the following general criteria:

- Be fully developed for use (e.g., research and testing have been completed);
- Be intended for use in both public reporting and quality improvement;
- Be open source or in the public domain;¹ and
- Have an identified measure steward.²

Measure stewards must also have a fully executed Measure Steward Agreement with NQF. Information on submitting measures to NQF can be found on the NQF website.

FUNDING

This project is supported under a contract provided by the Department of Health and Human Services, [Consensus-based Entities Regarding Healthcare Performance Measurement](#).

MEASURE STEWARDS: NOTICE OF INTENT TO SUBMIT CANDIDATE STANDARDS

Measures stewards anticipating submission of candidate measures to NQF for this project should submit a notice of intent. A Microsoft Word document containing a list of measures should be sent to patientsafety@qualityforum.org no later than **December 28, 2009 at 6 p.m. ET**. This list should include:

- Title and description of the measure;
- Organization (indicate whether developer or steward); and
- Contact person (name, e-mail address, and telephone number)

CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information, contact Jennifer Hurst at (202) 783-1300 or via e-mail at patientsafety@qualityforum.org.

¹ NQF requires any non-government organization submitting a measure for endorsement to execute a Measure Steward Agreement that addresses intellectual property protection and disclosure of the measure's proprietary components, including but not limited to specifications, risk adjustment methodologies, data collection instrument, data collection or analysis software, and database access. For details, please see our [Policy on Endorsement of Proprietary Measures](#).

² NQF requires any measure considered for endorsement to have an identified responsible entity and process to maintain and update the measure on a schedule commensurate with clinical innovation, but at least every 3 years. Measure stewards must execute a [Measure Steward Agreement](#) with NQF.

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