



January 8, 2019

To: Renal Transplant Technical Expert Panel
From: NQF Staff
Re: Reconsideration of evidence for measures #3402 and #3403

Background

Two measures considered by NQF's Renal Standing Committee in the spring 2018 review cycle were not recommended for endorsement. The University of Michigan—Kidney Epidemiology and Cost Center (UM-KECC), the developer of the two measures, submitted a request for reconsideration to the CSAC chairs. The developer cited that:

- There is a flaw in the evidence algorithm for process measures that did not allow important measures with limited evidence to pass.
- There are concerns about the Renal Standing Committee's impartiality and the lack of broader representation from patients/patient advocates and the transplant provider community.

During the CSAC's October 23-24, 2018 in-person meeting, the CSAC reviewed UM-KECC's reconsideration request and determined that the Renal Standing Committee may not have appropriately applied the Clinical Evidence algorithm, and asked the Standing Committee to re-review Evidence in the Importance to Measure and Report criterion for the following measures:

- Measure 3402 Standardized First Kidney Transplant Waitlist Ratio for Incident Dialysis Patients (SWR) (CMS)
- Measure 3403 Percentage of Prevalent Patients Waitlisted (PPPW) (CMS)

Based on the concerns identified in the request for reconsideration of the lack of proper expertise, the CSAC has asked NQF to create a temporary technical expert panel with the following additional expertise as a part of the re-evaluation of the measures:

- Dialysis patients who are waiting for a kidney transplant
- Disparities experts with experience in renal care

Evaluation of the Evidence

Review of Evidence for 3402: Standardized First Kidney Transplant Waitlist Ratio for Incident Dialysis Patients (SWR)

While the CSAC agrees that the evidence provided does not directly relate to the measure submitted, they have observed (as overseers of the full NQF portfolio) that measures with similar evidence basis have passed evidence with an exception in other Standing Committees. In

order to be consistent across NQF's projects, the CSAC asks the Renal Transplant Technical Expert Panel to consider just the evidence of this measure.

Summary Renal Standing Committee Fall 2018 Review

The Committee discussed whether the evidence presented by the developer directly related to the measure focus. Some Committee members suggested that there was evidence highlighting variability in waitlisting rates across dialysis facilities; however, the Committee generally believed that the evidence included in the submission largely related to the impact of transplantation on patient outcomes—not the impact of waitlisting on patient outcomes.

Action Item

Consider evidence for 3402 using the NQF Evidence Algorithm and provide feedback to the Renal Standing Committee.

Review of Evidence for 3403: Percentage of Prevalent Patients Waitlisted (PPPW)

Committee members expressed concern that the evidence presented primarily related to the impact of transplantation on patient outcomes, rather than the impact of waitlisting on patient outcomes, and therefore, was not directly relevant to the measure focus.

Summary Renal Standing Committee Fall 2018 Review

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Action Item

Consider evidence for 3403 using the NQF Evidence Algorithm and provide feedback to the Renal Standing Committee.