



### Renal Standing Committee—Measure Evaluation Web Meeting

---

The National Quality Forum (NQF) convened the Renal Standing Committee for a web meeting on January 30, 2020 at the NQF offices in Washington, DC to evaluate one measure.

#### Welcome, Introductions, and Review of Meeting Objectives

NQF welcomed the Standing Committee and participants to the web meeting. NQF staff reviewed the meeting objectives. Committee members each introduced themselves and disclosed any conflicts of interest.

#### Topic Area Introduction and Overview of Evaluation Process

NQF staff provided an overview of the topic area and reviewed the Consensus Development Process (CDP) and the measure evaluation criteria. To maximize discussion time for the measure under review, these agenda items were intentionally brief.

#### Measure Evaluation

During the meeting, the Renal Standing Committee evaluated one measure for endorsement consideration. A summary of the Committee deliberations will be compiled and provided in the draft technical report. NQF will post the draft technical report on March 11, 2020 for public comment on the NQF website. The draft technical report will be posted for 30 calendar days.

**Rating Scale:** H – High; M – Medium; L – Low; I – Insufficient; NA – Not Applicable

#### **2979 Standardized Transfusion Ratio for Dialysis Facilities (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services/University of Michigan Kidney Epidemiology and Cost Center)**

##### *Measure Steward/Developer Representatives at the Meeting*

Joseph Messana

##### *Standing Committee Votes*

- Evidence: Pass-16; No Pass-2
- Performance Gap: H-1; M-17; L-0; I-0
- Reliability: H-0; M-13; L-2; I-1
  - This measure is deemed as complex and was evaluated by the NQF Scientific Methods Panel.
  - The NQF Scientific Methods Panel’s ratings for Reliability: H-2; M-3; L-1; I-0
- Validity: H-1; M-10; L-3; I-2
  - This measure is deemed as complex and was evaluated by the NQF Scientific Methods Panel.
  - The NQF Scientific Methods Panel’s ratings for Validity: H-4; M-0; L-0; I-2

- Feasibility: H-11; M-5; L-0; I-0
- Use: Pass-14; No Pass-2
- Usability: H-3; M-11; L-1; I-0

*Standing Committee Recommendation for Endorsement: Yes-14; No-1*

The Standing Committee recommended the measure for continued endorsement. The Committee noted that the evidence provided came from historical and observational studies but concluded the evidence was reasonable to support the basis of the measure. The Committee was satisfied that the performance gaps demonstrated in the analysis submitted are sufficient to warrant continued endorsement of this measure. The developer provided an overview of changes made to the measure specifications since the measure's previous endorsement. To address concerns about under-identification of inpatient blood transfusions using International Classification of Diseases (ICD)-10 procedure codes, the developer added revenue codes to the inpatient transfusion definition. The developer presented data demonstrating that the broader definition captures more inpatient transfusion events than were previously captured. The developer also clarified that the measure excludes Medicare Advantage patients due to incomplete claims data. Both the Committee and the developer were concerned about excluding this group of patients as Medicare Advantage patients have been increasingly represented in the population of patients receiving dialysis. Without full claims data, the developer stated it is impossible to accurately risk adjust the measure results or capture of transfusion events and exclusions would be incomplete, threatening the validity of the measure. The Committee discussed the reliability and validity of the measure, and the changes to the specifications since the previous endorsement. The Committee determined their discussion warranted a Committee vote on both reliability and validity and ultimately the Committee was satisfied that the measure met both criteria. The Committee did not express any concerns about the feasibility, use, and usability of the measure.

### **Public Comment**

No public or NQF member comments were provided during the measure evaluation meeting.

### **Next Steps**

NQF will post the draft technical report on March 11, 2020 for public comment for 30 calendar days. The continuous public comment with member support will close on April 9, 2020. NQF will re-convene the Standing Committee for the post-comment web meeting on April 27, 2020.