



NQF Scientific Methods Panel

BACKGROUND

NQF's measure endorsement process, also referred to as the consensus development process (CDP), is essential to providing the nation, including HHS' public reporting and pay-for-performance initiatives, with a portfolio of measures that meet rigorous evaluation criteria, are up-to-date, reflective of the current evidence, reliable and valid, useful for accountability and quality improvement, and feasible.

As a key component of its organizational transformation, NQF is implementing significant changes to make measure endorsement more efficient, foster innovation, and enable greater access to NQF expertise. The changes, outlined in the [2017 Consensus Development Process Redesign](#) report, reflect feedback from a special event during which NQF thoroughly examined how it endorses measures, specifically to make the process more agile and reduce the cycle time for measure submission and review. More than 40 private- and public-sector stakeholders—including experts from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and other federal agencies, NQF standing committees, and organizations that develop measures—also provided input, as did NQF members and the public.

Among the most significant changes recommended for the measure endorsement process is that NQF will establish a Scientific Methods Panel to assist in conducting methodological reviews of submitted measures. Shifting the scientific, methodological review of measures to this panel and NQF staff will allow for greater engagement and participation by consumers, patients, and purchasers on NQF standing committees.

PANEL CHARGE

The Scientific Methods Panel will provide NQF standing committees with evaluations of the scientific acceptability of measures, using NQF's standard [measure evaluation criteria](#). Specifically, the panel will assess measures for reliability and validity, both of which are “must-pass” criteria for NQF endorsement.

The panel's feedback will be 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 will provide guidance to NQF for methods/testing-related issues.

PANEL STRUCTURE

The Scientific Methods Panel will consist of 15 to 25 individuals.

Panel members will be randomly appointed to an initial two- or three-year term, with an optional three-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):

- Review relevant measure submission information during each cycle of measure review (approximately 2 hours per measure)
- Complete all surveys and evaluations
- Attend scheduled monthly calls and future in-person meetings (1 full day in Washington, DC); future in-person meetings will occur on an annual basis
- Participate in additional calls/meetings as necessary

Scheduled Meeting Dates

Meeting	Date/Time
Web Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• September 14, 2017 at 2-4:30pm ET• September 22, 2017 at 2-4:30pm ET
Monthly calls (1 hour)	TBD

PREFERRED EXPERTISE & COMPOSITION

NQF is seeking statisticians, epidemiologists, psychometricians, economists, performance measure methodologists, and individuals with expertise related to eMeasures 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 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 for the panel.

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 August 7, 2017**.

QUESTIONS

Please contact May Nacion at 202-783-1300 or MethodsPanel@qualityforum.org with any questions. Thank you for your interest.