

Topic Nomination Process for Clinical Quality Performance Measures Development



Christopher Bever, Jr., MD, MBA, Rebecca Swain-Eng, MS, and Sarah Tonn, MPH, on behalf of the American Academy of Neurology (AAN) Quality Measurement and Reporting (QMR) Subcommittee

INTRODUCTION

The American Academy of Neurology (AAN) promotes collaborative development of evidence-based clinical quality performance measures by convening topic-specific expert panels with multispecialty and multidisciplinary representation using a process developed and refined by the AMA-convened Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement® (PCPI).¹

OVERVIEW: TOPIC NOMINATION PROCESS AND REQUEST FORM

The requirements for a topic nomination demonstrate the availability, strength of evidence, and impact on the topic of interest.

- Any AAN member, committee, section, individual neurologist, subspecialty, government agency, nongovernmental agency, payer (including large self-insured employer), or measure vendor may submit a topic for measure development.
- Topic submissions are accepted any time; deadlines occur in October to facilitate setting measure development work plans for the following year.
- Nominations must be received in writing by submitting a *Request Form for Topic Nomination for Measure Development*. Submission requirements include:
 - Criteria for topic selection
 - Process and eligibility requirements

CRITERIA FOR TOPIC SELECTION

The following criteria are used by the AAN QMR Subcommittee to select topics for the development of performance measures.

Required Characteristics	
Required characteristics are those that must be in place prior to beginning work on any proposed measure development topic	
Gaps and Variations in Care	Documented evidence of deviation (or observed patterns of deviation) in care from established norms or standards of care. Gaps in care may be manifested by underuse, overuse, or misuse of health services
Evidence Base	One or more national, widely accepted clinical guidelines that meet the standards set forth by the PCPI Position Statement – The Evidence Base Required for Measures Development ² OR One or more documented quality improvement (QI) initiatives or research projects that have demonstrated improvement in the quality of care (based on measures of access, processes, outcomes, or the patient experience of care)
High Impact	High prevalence of the clinical problem or condition, significant burden of illness, high cost, or nationally identified clinical priority area (e.g., Institute of Medicine, National Priority Partners)

High Value Characteristics	
High value characteristics represent an overlap of priority areas ³ that have been identified by the Institute of Medicine, National Priority Partners, and the PCPI ad hoc committee on priorities. Potential topics should feasibly foster measure development in these domains	
Care Coordination	Improve coordination of care among a patient's multiple providers and during entire episodes of illness addressing one of the following domains: health care "home" (e.g., a source of usual care selected by the patient, integration of care across the community and longitudinally), proactive plan of care and follow-up, communication, integrated electronic information systems
Patient Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduce health care-associated infections, including surgical site infection, catheter-associated blood stream infections, catheter-associated urinary tract infections, ventilator-associated pneumonia• Reduce surgical mishaps: wrong site surgery, foreign objects retained after surgery, air embolism• Reduce adverse drug events• Reduce preventable complications: pressure ulcers, falls, blood product injury
Appropriateness/Overuse	Address at least one of nine targeted areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inappropriate medication use• Unnecessary laboratory tests• Inappropriate maternity care interventions• Inappropriate diagnostic procedures• Inappropriate procedures• Unnecessary consultations• Preventable emergency department visits and hospitalizations• Inappropriate nonpalliative services at end of life• Potentially harmful preventive services with no benefit
Quality Improvement Collaboratives	Measures that can be used in quality improvement collaboratives which accelerate the spread of measures use

PROCESS AND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The AAN is considered a measure developer. The AAN's national framework for measure development⁴ includes elements of the PCPI measure development methodology. Measurement sets are intended for publication.

- The completed *Request Form for Topic Nomination for Measure Development* must be submitted to AAN QMR Subcommittee staff for initial review. If additional information is required, staff will respond directly to the submitting individual or organization. If no additional information is necessary, the information will be forwarded to the QMR Subcommittee.
- The QMR Subcommittee will review the request and may 1) approve the submission, 2) request more information from the submitting individual, or 3) decline the submission. If multiple development topics are submitted and approved, the AAN QMR Subcommittee will prioritize topics based on the information provided in the request form and according to the criteria for topic selection.
- Topic submissions are accepted any time; deadlines occur in October to facilitate setting measure development work plans for the following year.

INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR THE REQUEST FORM FOR TOPIC NOMINATION FOR MEASURE DEVELOPMENT

- Individual(s) interested in topic nomination
- Contact information: address, phone, email
- Date of submission
- Measure topic area
- Proposed timeline for measures development, if known
- Potential aspects of care for measures development or list of proposed measures, if known
- Documentation of gap and/or variation in care
 - Provide evidence (including citations to source) that demonstrate a quality gap or room for improvement in the measure topic area
- Evidence base to support measure development work
 - Provide a list of applicable guidelines including a description of the guideline development methodology or rating scheme for the strength of the evidence/ recommendation. If a quality initiative, provide evidence (including citations to source) that demonstrate improvement in the quality of care
- Potential impact of topic area
 - Include data regarding prevalence, burden of illness (estimates of morbidity and mortality), cost, or national identification as clinical priority area
- Potential for measure development in any one of the following priority areas: care coordination, patient safety, appropriateness/overuse, existing QI initiative or collaborative for measure implementation
 - Provide evidence (including citations to source) that demonstrate the potential for measures in these priority areas to be developed

RECOMMENDATIONS

AAN members wishing to nominate topics to develop performance measures must submit a formal request using the *Request Form for Topic Nomination for Measure Development* to the AAN QMR Subcommittee. This request will be carefully evaluated and prioritized in the context of the recently developed criteria for topic selection. These recommendations are intended to be a first step toward advancing the work of the AAN and increasing the relevance of its work to multiple stakeholders, all of whom share the central goal of making a positive impact on the health of patients and the outcomes of care.

REFERENCES

- ¹ Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement. *Guidance for Requesting Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement® (PCPI) Review and Approval of Measures Developed Independently by PCPI Voting Members*. Approved by the PCPI Membership on October 5, 2007. Accessed PCPI website March 30, 2009, www.ama-assn.org/ama1/pub/upload/mm/370/meas_dev_ind_pcpi.pdf.
- ² Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement. *The Evidence Base Required for Measures Development*. PCPI Position Statement. Under review with the PCPI Measures Development, Methodology, and Oversight Advisory Committee, Chicago, IL. March 2009.
- ³ National Priorities Partnership. *National Priorities and Goals: Aligning Our Efforts to Transform America's Healthcare*. Washington, DC: National Quality Forum; 2008.
- ⁴ American Academy of Neurology. *Quality Measures Process Manual*. 2008 Edition. Board approved, December 18, 2008.

For more information on this or other performance measures initiatives, email quality@aan.com