

Geriatrics and Palliative Care Standing Committee Fall 2022 Post-Comment Web Meeting

Battelle convened the Geriatrics and Palliative Care standing committee for the fall 2022 post-comment web meeting on Monday, June 12, 2023, from 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (ET).

Welcome, Review of Meeting Objectives, and Attendance

Katie Goodwin, deputy endorsement and maintenance technical lead, welcomed participants to the web meeting. The standing committee co-chairs, Sean Morrison and Amy Berman, thanked standing committee members for attending. Brenna Rabel, deputy director of the consensus-based entity (CBE) work, gave opening remarks and expressed gratitude for the standing committee's continued participation. Ms. Goodwin then provided an overview of the meeting's objectives:

- Review the post-comment memo and the meeting summary from the Fall 2022 Measure evaluation meeting.
- Provide feedback and input on the full text of all comments received and the proposed responses to the post-evaluation comments.

Ms. Goodwin reminded the committee that during the Fall 2022 cycle, the Geriatrics and Palliative Care standing committee evaluated four newly submitted measures and two measures undergoing maintenance review against standard measure evaluation criteria on February 23, 2023. Of the measure reviewed, the standing committee recommended three out of the six measures for endorsement.

The standing committee recommended the following measures:

- CBE #3726 *Serious Illness Survey for Home-Based Programs* (RAND Corporation [RAND])
- CBE #0091 *COPD: Spirometry Evaluation* (American Thoracic Society/Northfield Associates LLC)
- CBE #2651 *CAHPS® Hospice Survey, Version 9.0* (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services [CMS]/RAND)

The standing committee did not recommend the following measures:

- CBE #3707 *Ratio of Observed Over Predicted Rates for Diagnosis of Mild Cognitive Impairment* (University of Southern California [USC])
- CBE #3672 *Ratio of Observed Over Predicted Rates for Diagnosis of Dementia* (USC)
- CBE #3729 *Ratio of Observed Over Predicted Rates for Diagnosis of Cognitive Impairment of Any Stage* (USC)

The meeting summary was posted on the Partnership for Quality Measurement (PQM)[™] website for public comment from March 28, 2023 to May 5, 2023. The committee received seven comments from the American Geriatrics Society (AGS) pertaining to the measures under review and the committee endorsement recommendations. The comments received were generally supportive of the standing committee's recommendations. Two comments raised

issues with the specifications for measures CBE #2651 and CBE #3726. During the post-comment meeting, the standing committee spent the majority of the time discussing measure specific comments for measures CBE #2651 and CBE #3726.

Review and Discuss Post-Evaluation Comments Received

CBE #2651 CAHPS® Hospice Survey, Version 9.0 (CMS/RAND)

Ms. Goodwin presented the public comments received for each measure as well as the developer's responses and/or proposed responses. Dr. Morrison, committee co-chair, facilitated the standing committee's discussion of comments and gathered input on proposed standing committee responses.

The standing committee reviewed the comment provided by AGS for this measure, which emphasized the importance of reconciling this measure to be seamless with CBE #0679 *Percent of High Risk Residents with Pressure Ulcers (Long Stay)* measure, given the challenges distinguishing between avoidable and unavoidable events around end of life. The comment also suggested hospice or comfort care patients be excluded from the denominator or a comfort care exclusion be operationalized. The developer response, which is provided in the [developer response document](#), was shared with standing committee members, explaining that the CAHPS® Hospice Survey assesses experiences of hospice care received across all settings in which hospice care is delivered, including the nursing home. Hospice decedents are not excluded from the sample based on their diagnoses or symptoms. Additionally, the developer noted that the measures of CBE #2651 assess distinct concepts from those assessed by measures of nursing home pressure ulcers.

The standing committee recommended that the commenter's concerns be acknowledged when the nursing home survey measure is back for endorsement review. The standing committee had no additional discussion related to this comment and there was agreement with the proposed response.

CBE #3726 Serious Illness Survey for Home-Based Programs (RAND)

Ms. Goodwin summarized the comment received from AGS on this measure, noting that the commenter requested clarification on how the measure will distinguish between home-based serious illness programs and home-based primary care programs, and emphasizing the importance of incorporating patient and family input into this and similar measures. The developer response included a definition of how home-based care was specified and key features of home-based programs as defined.

Ms. Goodwin noted the comment supported the standing committee's recommendation, but the team wanted to bring the comment to the standing committee for discussion because of the recommendation for clarification on the definition of home-based serious illness programs. During discussion, standing committee members agreed with the concerns raised in the comment and shared potential points of overlap between home-based serious illness and home-based primary care programs. Dr. Morrison provided additional guidance that serious illness versus primary care program differentiation is determined by the characteristic of focus:

the population or the care delivery model. The standing committee had no additional discussion and agreed with the proposed response.

Opportunity for Public Comment

Ms. Goodwin opened the web meeting to allow for public comment. No public comments were provided during this time.

Next Steps

Ms. Goodwin reviewed the next steps. She informed attendees that the Consensus Standards Approval Committee (CSAC) will consider the standing committee's recommendations during its meeting on July 24th. Following the CSAC meeting, the 30-day appeals period will be held from August 1st to August 30th. Ms. Goodwin then thanked the committee and shared opportunities for further PQM involvement and information about the upcoming informational webinar on June 30th. The purpose of the webinar is to provide an overview of the new endorsement and maintenance process that will be initiated during the Fall 2023 cycle. The co-chairs expressed gratitude to the standing committee, measure stewards, and developers on the call for attending. Ms. Goodwin then adjourned the meeting.