

Comments on Hospital Inpatient Psychiatric Measures

MM-037-08: Hours of Physical Restraint Use: The American Hospital Association supports this measure as an important area in which opportunity for improvement exists, and this measure has been provisionally adopted by the Hospital Quality Alliance, pending NQF endorsement. Most importantly, we are pleased that this measure provides a standardized definition of physical restraint use and the data specifications that will enable the collection of data that are comparable across different health care providers. We share the Steering Committee's concerns about the lack of risk adjustment or stratification in the measure by patient diagnosis and type of admission (voluntary versus involuntary) but understand that this measure represents a baseline tool. We urge the measure developer to examine the data that are initially collected and use information gleaned from these baseline evaluations to further refine the measure over time. The extensive pilot testing of this measure should serve as an example for other measure developers submitting measures for NQF endorsement.

MM-038-08: Hours of Seclusion Use: The American Hospital Association supports this measure as an important area in which opportunity for improvement exists, and this measure has been provisionally adopted by the Hospital Quality Alliance, pending NQF endorsement. Most importantly, we are pleased that this measure provides a standardized definition of seclusion use and the data specifications that will enable the collection of data that are comparable across different health care providers. We share the Steering Committee's concerns about the lack of risk adjustment or stratification in the measure but understand that this measure represents a baseline tool. We urge the measure developer to examine the data that are initially collected and use information gleaned from these baseline evaluations to further refine the measure over time. The extensive pilot testing of this measure should serve as an example for other measure developers submitting measures for NQF endorsement.