

Comments on the Medication Management Measures

General comments:

The American Hospital Association (AHA) is pleased to review this set of medication management measures. We believe medication management is a critical component of providing the right care to all patients. One important area of medication management is the reconciliation of patients' medications when they are admitted to a hospital. Medication reconciliation has proven to be a difficult challenge for hospitals over the years, despite the attention that has been focused on this task. We understand that no hospital inpatient medication reconciliation measures were submitted to this NQF for this project, likely because there currently are no scientifically accepted, evidence-based practices for how to successfully achieve medication reconciliation in a broad cross-section of patients admitted to the hospital for a wide variety of reasons. We recommend that the NQF first encourage the research and development of best practices for medication reconciliation and then support the development of quality measures that can help hospitals assess their progress in implementing those best practices.

MM-022-08: Patients Discharged on Multiple Antipsychotic Medications: The AHA supports this measure as an important area in which opportunity for improvement exists. We believe this measure should be reported as a paired measure with MM-023-08: Patients Discharged on Multiple Antipsychotic Medications with Appropriate Justifications as there are situations when prescribing multiple antipsychotic medications is justified. This measure has been provisionally adopted by the Hospital Quality Alliance, pending NQF endorsement.

MM-023-08: Patients Discharged on Multiple Antipsychotic Medications with Appropriate Justifications: The AHA supports this measure as an important area in which opportunity for improvement exists. We believe this measure should be reported as a paired measure with MM-022-08: Patients Discharged on Multiple Antipsychotic Medications. This measure has been provisionally adopted by the Hospital Quality Alliance, pending NQF endorsement.

MM-034-08: Post Discharge Continuing Care Plan Created: The AHA supports this measure as an important area in which opportunity for improvement exists. Assessing the quality of the coordination of care across multiple healthcare settings is critically important. This measure has been provisionally adopted by the Hospital Quality Alliance, pending NQF endorsement.

MM-035-08: Post Discharge Continuing Care Plan Transmitted to Next Level of Care Provider upon Discharge: The AHA supports this measure as an important area in which opportunity for improvement exists. Assessing the quality of the coordination of care across multiple healthcare settings is critically important. This measure has been provisionally adopted by the Hospital Quality Alliance, pending NQF endorsement.