



National Nursing Home Quality Care Collaborative

Updated October 2014

The National Nursing Home Quality Care Collaborative (NNHQCC) is a fast-paced, “all teach, all learn” initiative modeled after the Institute for Healthcare Improvement Breakthrough Series Collaborative model, and is being led by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and Quality Improvement Organizations (QIOs). The NNHQCC runs from April 2014 through July 2019, and will have a minimum of 75 percent of nursing homes participating across the country. The NNHQCC seeks to rapidly spread the practices of high-performing nursing homes with the aim of ensuring that every nursing home resident receives the highest quality of care. Specifically, the NNHQCC will strive to instill quality and performance improvement practices, eliminate healthcare acquired conditions, and dramatically improve resident satisfaction through the achievement of a rate of 6 or better using the NNHQCC quality measure composite score by July 31, 2019. Prior to the initial launch of the NNHQCC in February 2013, nearly 10 percent of the nation’s nursing homes had achieved a composite score of 6 or better.

A key component of the NNHQCC is the focus on the nursing home’s internal, operational systems. By examining its own data, the nursing home will identify areas of focus to improve its internal systems, such as those supported by the strategies and actionable items in the Collaborative Change Package.

In addition, with the pending release of the Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement (QAPI) regulations, the NNHQCC will augment the adoption of these regulations by using QAPI as the framework for Collaborative I and II.

Measuring Collaborative Success

Participating nursing homes, focusing on processes that improve their system, measure on individual tests of change. They will look at their Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) improvement cycle results, their clinical outcomes, and their composite score (e.g., attain a goal of 6 or better by July 31, 2019).

The Quality Measure Composite Score

The composite is comprised of thirteen NQF-endorsed, long-stay quality measures that represent larger systems within the long term care setting:

1. Percent of residents with one or more falls with major injury
2. Percent of residents with a UTI
3. Percent of residents who self-report moderate to severe pain
4. Percent of high-risk residents with pressure ulcer
5. Percent of low-risk residents with loss of bowels or bladder
6. Percent of residents with catheter inserted or left in bladder
7. Percent of residents physically restrained
8. Percent of residents whose need for help with ADL has increased
9. Percent of residents who lose too much weight
10. Percent of residents who have depressive symptoms
11. Percent of residents who received antipsychotic medications
12. Percent of residents assessed and appropriately given flu vaccine*
13. Percent of residents assessed and appropriately given Pneumococcal vaccine*

*The direction of the two vaccination measures should be reversed because they are directionally opposite of the other measures. This is done by subtracting the numerator from the denominator to obtain a “new” numerator. By keeping all measure directions consistent, the composite score can be interpreted as: the lower, the better.



The composite score is calculated by summing the 13 measure numerators to obtain the composite numerator, summing the 13 measure denominators to obtain the composite denominator, then dividing the composite numerator by the composite denominator and multiplying by 100. This method of calculation is based on the “opportunity model” concept.**

How to Calculate Your Quality Measure Composite Score

Should you choose to calculate your own quality measure composite score, it is important to know that the flu and pneumococcal measures are not available through the QIES CASPER data system. Therefore, the instructions below include the steps to calculate a modified quality measure composite score for tracking purposes. To calculate your quality measure composite score, excluding the immunization measures for monitoring purposes only, do the following:

- Step 1. Run your facility QM reports in CASPER for a six month time period, for example, from May 1 through October 31, 2014.
- Step 2. Sum the numerators for measures 1-11 above. This will be your aggregate numerator. For example, numerator = 76
- Step 3. Sum the denominators for measures 1-11 above. This will be your aggregate denominator. For example, denominator = 918
- Step 4. Divide the composite numerator by the composite denominator. For example, numerator/denominator = $76/918 = 0.08$
- Step 5. Multiply by 100. For example, $0.08 \times 100 = 8.0$

** This measure is intended for the sole purpose of measuring progress in the NNHQCC. It is not intended to replace any existing CMS measures or scores such as the Five Star Rating System. These measures were chosen for the composite because timely data are available for measuring the progress in a fast paced Collaborative. QIOs have access to the quality measure data necessary to calculate composite scores for their state.