

Technical Expert Panel Charter

Project Title: Technical Expert Panel (TEP) for the Scoring Methodology for the Expansion of the Skilled Nursing Facility Value-Based Purchasing (SNF VBP) Program

TEP Expected Time Commitment and Dates:

The TEP is a standing panel of experts who advise the DPS contract over the course of the scoring methodology updates. Selected nominees will be expected to attend one four-hour TEP meeting (maximum length) in early May 2022 (specific date to be determined based on availability of selected members) as well as potential follow-up TEP meetings in the summer and fall of 2022. All meetings will be held virtually.

Project Overview:

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has contracted with Mathematica and RTI International to develop a Skilled Nursing Facility Value-Based Purchasing (SNF VBP) Program scoring methodology that ties SNF payments to the quality of care provided across several domains of care. The contract name is the Division of Value, Incentives, and Quality Reporting (DVIQR) Program Support (DPS) contract. The contract number is 75FCMC18D0032, task order 75FCMC19F0005.

As the organizer of this TEP, Mathematica convenes groups of stakeholders and experts who contribute direction and thoughtful input on the scoring methodology for the expansion of the SNF VBP Program. This work is in response to Section 111 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, which allowed the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services to apply up to nine additional measures to the SNF VBP Program for payment for services furnished on or after October 1, 2023 (fiscal year [FY] 2024). The purpose of this TEP is to solicit stakeholder input on updates to the SNF VBP Program scoring methodology to allow for applying additional measures to the current single-measure Program.

Project Objectives:

The primary objective of this project is to solicit stakeholder input on updates to the SNF VBP Program scoring methodology to allow for applying additional measures to the current single-measure Program.

Technical Expert Panel (TEP) Objectives:

As part of its scoring methodology testing process, the DPS contractor requests input from a broad group of SNF stakeholders to evaluate and provide guidance on the results of the scoring methodology updates. Stakeholders include, but are not limited to, clinical expertise around SNF quality/safety improvement, statistical/methodological experts, SNF quality measure experts, healthcare disparity experts, SNF stakeholder representatives, and SNF patient or family (caregivers) representatives. Patient or family (caregivers) and facility representatives can provide unique and essential input on scoring methodology based on their own experience and perspective. A well-balanced representation of stakeholders on the TEP will help to ensure the consideration of key perspectives in the scoring methodology development and selection processes.

TEP Requirements:

A TEP of approximately 8 to 15 individuals will provide input on updates to the SNF VBP Program scoring methodology to allow for applying additional measures to the current single-measure Program. The TEP will be composed of individuals with differing areas of expertise and perspectives, including but not limited to:

- Clinical expertise around SNF quality/safety improvement
- Statistical/methodological expertise
- SNF quality measure expertise
- Healthcare disparities expertise
- SNF stakeholder perspective
- SNF patient or family (caregivers) perspective

Scope of Responsibilities:

The TEP will provide input to the DPS contractor on updates to the SNF VBP Program scoring methodology to allow for applying additional measures to the current single-measure Program. The TEP's specific duties include the following:

- Review supporting materials provided by the DPS contractor prior to the TEP meeting
- Attend and actively participate in a TEP meeting and potential follow-up TEP meetings
- Provide input on the scoring methodology testing; input on the initial measures for potential implementation into the expanded SNF VBP Program was previously collected through an RFI in the FY 2022 SNF PPS proposed rule.
- Review the TEP summary report and provide input prior to any possible public release

Guiding Principles:

Participation as a TEP member is voluntary and the DPS contractor records the participant's input in the meeting minutes, which the DPS contractor will summarize in a report that they may disclose to the public. If a participant has chosen to disclose private, personal data, then related material and communications are not covered by patient-provider confidentiality. Patient/caregiver participants may elect to keep their names confidential in public documents. TEP organizers will answer any questions about confidentiality.

All potential TEP members must disclose any significant financial interest or other relationships that may influence their perceptions or judgment. It is unethical to conceal (or fail to disclose) conflicts of interest. However, there is no intent for the disclosure requirement to prevent individuals with particular perspectives or strong points of view from serving on the TEP. The intent of full disclosure is to inform the DPS contractor, other TEP members, and CMS about the source of TEP members' perspectives and how that might affect discussions or recommendations.

The TEP will provide input on updates to the SNF VBP Program scoring methodology to allow for applying additional measures to the current single-measure Program. The DPS contractor will consider the TEP's recommendations and will convey those recommendations to CMS; however, the DPS contractor and CMS will ultimately make decisions about scoring methodology development and selection. The DPS contractor will write and share summary reports of TEP proceedings following meetings to highlight discussions and document decisions.

The DPS contractor will ensure confidentiality in TEP reports by summarizing discussion topics and removing the names of TEP members who make specific comments during the meetings.

Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings:

There will be one four-hour TEP meeting (maximum length) in early May 2022 (specific date to be determined based on availability of selected members) as well as potential follow-up TEP meetings in the summer and fall of 2022.

Date Approved by TEP:

TBD

TEP Membership:

TBD