

Technical Expert Panel (TEP) Nomination Form Template

Project Title:

End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Dialysis Facility Compare (DFC) Star Ratings Technical Expert Panel (TEP)

Project Overview:

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has contracted with The University of Michigan Kidney Epidemiology and Cost Center (UM-KECC) to convene a Technical Expert Panel (TEP) to obtain recommendations on potential quality measures to include in the Dialysis Facility Compare Star Ratings. The contract name is the ESRD Quality Measure Development, Maintenance, and Support contract. The contract number is HHSM-500-2013-13017I.

The Medicare Dialysis Facility Compare (DFC) website displays overall star ratings of dialysis facilities. The star ratings provide an overall summary of the quality of care delivered to patients with ESRD. CMS developed the overall star rating to help health care consumers (including patients and caregivers) understand how CMS measures quality and to more easily identify differences in overall quality when selecting a dialysis facility. CMS is considering adding additional quality measures to this overall star rating. The public reporting of these ratings is part of CMS' broader initiative for all of the Medicare Compare sites to make quality information more accessible to patients, caregivers, and other key audiences, including providers and policymakers.

To develop a TEP that focuses on star ratings, we adopt CMS' structured and standardized approach. A key step is to ensure input from experts and the public. We are now seeking input from individuals with relevant experience, expertise, and a variety of perspectives to serve on this TEP tasked with review of the proposed candidate measures for inclusion in the Dialysis Facility Compare Star Ratings.

Historically, a TEP was convened in 2015 to review the original star rating methodology and presentation of the star ratings on the DFC website. The 2015 TEP provided several recommendations that were implemented in the updated star rating methodology that was publicly released in October 2016. In the new TEP that is to be convened in 2017, TEP members are requested to provide recommendations on candidate measures proposed for inclusion into the DFC Star Ratings, and how current and future potential patient reported outcome measures could be reported in the Star Ratings. The TEP will also provide recommendations on how to reset the baseline year thresholds for the Star Ratings when new measures are added or old measures are removed, or when the categorization of star ratings is no longer informative, e.g., when a very high percentage of facilities are clustered in certain star categories.

The TEP is expected to represent a diversity of perspectives and backgrounds. Members will be selected based on their personal experience as patients, caregivers and providers, or based on methodological expertise they have. The TEP will recognize dialysis facility organizational perspectives. Given that the audience for the star ratings is primarily patients, the TEP will have ample representation from patients and patient advocates.

We anticipate that the meeting will take place over one day and will include additional pre- and follow-up teleconference calls. TEP members' attendance at all meetings is required.

Project Objectives:

The University of Michigan Kidney Epidemiology and Cost Center (UM-KECC), through its contract with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), will convene a technical expert panel to evaluate and make recommendations regarding the addition of new measures proposed for the October 2018 release of the DFC Star Ratings.

TEP Expected Time Commitment:

- TEP members should expect to come together for one to two teleconference meetings prior to the in-person meeting held February 2017, in Baltimore, MD.
- The in-person meeting February 2017 (final dates to be determined).
- After the in-person meeting, TEP members should expect to attend additional teleconference meetings as needed.

TEP Requirements:

A TEP of approximately 10-20 individuals will review measures included in the Star Ratings and provide input on the Star Ratings framework and methodology. The TEP will be comprised of individuals with the following areas of expertise and perspectives:

- Patient and caregiver perspectives
- Subject matter expertise: Subject-matter scientists in nephrology care; clinicians and nurses; consumer testing; communication of star rating systems in patient perspectives
- Methodological expertise: statisticians/biostatisticians with expertise in score or scale development, multivariate analysis, risk assessment, latent variable modeling
- Dialysis facility quality improvement
- Performance measurement
- Purchaser perspective
- Health care disparities

Instructions:

Applicants/nominees must submit the following documents with this completed and signed form:

A letter of interest (not to exceed two pages) highlighting experience/knowledge relevant to the expertise described above. Subject matter and consumer experts should have expertise and experience in quality measure development, and health care consumer rating methodologies. For patients and consumers, experience and knowledge to highlight include years as a dialysis patient (or as a care-giver/family member), interest and familiarity with

quality measures, and any participation or service on patient or consumer advocacy or advisory groups. Patients should also identify all other relevant knowledge and experience they believe is important. When completing the letter of interest please indicate in which workgroup(s) you would be willing to participate (Methodology or Public Reporting/Patient and Consumer understanding).

Curriculum vitae/resume or a summary of relevant experience (including publications) for a maximum of 10 pages. Patients/consumers should also identify all other relevant knowledge and experience they believe is important. Patient participants may elect to keep their names confidential in public documents.

Disclosure of any current and past activities that may indicate a financial or intellectual conflict of interest. As a contractor for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), UM-KECC must ensure independence, objectivity, scientific rigor, and balance in its measure development activities.*

Send the completed and signed TEP Nomination form, statement of interest, and CV to UM-KECC with "Nomination" in the subject line at dialysisdata@umich.edu . Due by close of business December 15, 2016. Eastern Time.

Potential TEP members must be aware that participation on the TEP is voluntary. As such, individuals wishing to participate on the TEP should understand that their input will be recorded in the meeting minutes. Proceedings of the TEP will be summarized in a report that is disclosed to the general public. If a participant has disclosed private, personal data by his or her own choice, then that material and those communications are not deemed to be covered by patient-provider confidentiality. If potential patient participants wish to keep their names confidential, that request can be accommodated. Any questions about confidentiality will be answered by UM-KECC.

*All potential TEP members must disclose any significant financial and intellectual interests or other relationships that may influence their perceptions or judgment. It is unethical to conceal (or fail to disclose) conflicts of interest. However, the disclosure requirement is not intended 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 measure contractor, other TEP members, and CMS about the source of TEP members' perspectives and how that might affect discussions or recommendations.

Applicant/Nominee Information (Self-Nominations Are Acceptable):

Name, Credentials, Professional Role:
Organizational Affiliation, City, State:
Contact Information: (mailing address, telephone, email)

Person Recommending the Nominee:

Complete this section only if you are nominating a third party for the TEP. You must sign this form and attest that you have notified the nominee of this action and that they are agreeable to serving on the TEP. The measure contractor will request the required information from the nominee.

Name, Credentials, Professional Role:
Organizational Affiliation, City, State:
Contact Information: (mailing address, telephone, email)

I attest that I have notified the nominee of this action and that the nominee is agreeable to serve on the TEP.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Applicant/Nominee's Disclosure:

Do you or any family members have a financial interest, arrangement, or affiliation with any corporate organizations that may create a potential conflict of interest? Yes/No.

If yes, please describe (grant/research support, consultant, speaker's bureau, and major stock shareholder, other financial or material support). Please include the name of the corporation/organization.

Do you or any family members have intellectual interest in a study or other research related to the quality measures under consideration? Yes/No.

If yes, please describe the type of intellectual interest and the name of the organization/group.

Applicant/Nominee's Agreement:

If at any time during my service as a member of this TEP my conflict of interest status changes, I will notify the measure contractor and the TEP chair.

I am able to commit to attending the TEP meetings in person, by teleconference, or by mutually agreed-upon alternative means.

If selected to participate in the TEP and the measures are submitted to a measure endorsement organization (such as the National Quality Forum), I will be available to discuss the measures with the organization or its representatives and work with the measure contractor to make revisions to the measures, if necessary.

I understand that my participation on the Technical Expert Panel is voluntary. As such, I understand that my input will be recorded in the meeting minutes. Proceedings of the TEP will be summarized in a report that is disclosed to the general public. If I have disclosed private, personal data by my own choice, then that material and those communications are not deemed to be subject to any confidentiality laws.

If selected to participate in the TEP, I will keep all materials and discussions confidential until such time that CMS authorizes their release.

I have read the above and agree to abide by it.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

For patient participants only: I wish to keep my name confidential. Yes/No.