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June 30, 2010

AHIMA Comments on Draft NQF Quality Data Set Model, Version 2

The National Quality Forum's (NQF) [Quality Data Set \(QDS\) Model](#) provides a summary of the QDS standard categories, data types, and definitions. The QDS is an "information model" that defines concepts used in quality measures and clinical care and is intended to enable automation of electronic health record (EHR) use. It provides a way to describe clinical concepts in a standardized format so individuals (i.e., providers, researchers, measure developers) monitoring clinical performance and outcomes can more clearly and concisely communicate necessary information. The QDS model describes information so that EHR and other clinical electronic system vendors can consistently interpret and locate the data required.

Use of the QDS is intended to enable more standardized, less burdensome quality measurement and reporting and more consistent use and communication of EHRs for direct patient care. In addition to enabling comparisons across performance measures, the QDS promotes delivery of more appropriate, consistent, and evidence-based care through clinical decision support applications. For more information about the QDS, please refer to the [Quality Data Set Technical Questions & Answers](#).

To ensure the value and use of the QDS, NQF is now enhancing the model in response to evolving needs for quality measurement and [seeking public comment](#). The comments below were compiled with input from AHIMA members and staff and submitted to NQF through their online [comment log](#).

General Comment

AHIMA supports NQF's efforts to enhance and continually improve the QDS Model and appreciates the opportunity to review and provide input.

Data Type – Physical Exam, Ordered

Our members do not commonly see physician orders for physical exams. Does this data type also encompass physician (or other licensed care provider) requests for consultation, or requests to clear a patient for surgery? Please consider incorporating additional examples to help clarify the definition of this QDS data type.

Standard Category – Symptom

Similar to the "condition/diagnosis/problem" standard category, the "symptom" standard category should also include data types for "symptom, inactive" and "symptom, resolved". AHIMA recommends adding these two data types to support appropriate management of symptoms as part of an interdisciplinary problem list.