



Patient Safety Action Network

Patient Driven, Patient Led

<https://www.patientsafetyaction.org/>

12/17/20

To NQF Patient Safety Committee staff:

We are writing our concern regarding appointments for the Fall 2020 cycle of the National Quality Forum's Patient Safety Committee. Our comments today are in response to the proposed roster for the new members of the Committee made available for public comment on December 4th.

The Patient Safety Action Network began to develop in 2015. After nearly 15 years of collaboration with the Consumer Reports Safe Patient Project, which ended in 2018, advocates from across the US decided to continue our work to end medical harm. Our members, including individuals and organizations, are specifically engaged in advocating for improved safety that will end medical harm.

We support the development and public disclosure of patient safety measures that are considered by this NQF Committee. Several of our members have served on this committee. We believe they significantly contribute to the discussions for endorsing outcome measures for improving safety that are meaningful to patients and caregivers. Most of our members are interested in improving safety across the health care spectrum and many of them have gained significant experience in similar committee work by serving on CMS-sponsored Technical Expert Panels, state-based infection prevention advisory committees, state boards overseeing physicians and nurses, federal agency advisory panels (e.g., FDA, CDC, AHRQ), as well as other stakeholder groups interested in safety issues. Bringing seasoned advocates' voices to these tables is a major goal of our work.

We are aware that NQF has in recent years stated a desire to help identify and recruit qualified patient/caregiver applicants for its committees and that NQF even organized a Patient and Caregiver Engagement Advisory Committee to assist in meeting those goals. However, despite these efforts, we are very disappointed that the proposed roster for the Patient Safety Committee will actually diminish the consumer/patient voices that were present in the last several cycles.

That roster includes nine health care providers representing that community and one person representing the employer community seeking quality information when choosing health plans for their employees. No people representing the patient/consumer community were selected, even though several very qualified advocates applied in an effort to replace a long-time member of the committee with a strong consumer voice who was termed out.

We strongly urge NQF to reconsider this proposed roster, review other qualified applicants from this and previous cycles of nominations, and add another patient/family/consumer representative to the NQF Patient Safety Committee.

Patient Safety Action Network Leadership Committee
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