

**Updated Priorities
February 1st, 2023**

Committee #6 | Quality Measurement & Improvement Priorities

The following document has been revised based on community feedback and ongoing committee discussion.

The document is broken down into two parts: an executive summary and the original, detailed committee submission. Since original committee submissions often contain technical references, we've provided the executive summary for broader understanding of the priority recommendation.

Executive Summary

Our ability to identify and measure differences in nursing home resident quality of care and quality of life is essential to supporting strong, person-centered nursing home models within communities. This content area focuses on measures of resident and family (care partner) experience.

Short-Term Priorities

- 1) To identify and test one or more resident experience of care measures that will include these elements:
 - a. "All my priorities have been addressed" (goals)
 - b. "In a manner acceptable to me" (preferences)
 - c. "To produce results that I value" (outcomes of care)
- 2) Promote and test best practices in the adoption of nursing home resident councils.
- 3) Identify and test a measure that will determine whether disparities are improving over time. [Updated equity initiatives are described below.]

NASEM Report Recommendation(s)

Goal 6: Expand and enhance quality measurement and continuous quality improvement.

6A: CMS should add the CAHPS measures of resident and family experience (i.e., the nursing home CAHPS surveys) to Care Compare.

6D: HHS should develop an overall health equity strategy for nursing homes that includes defining, measuring, evaluating, and intervening in disparities in nursing home care.

Detailed Committee #6 Submission

Introduction

The membership of the Moving Forward Committee #6 (the Committee) mutually affirms a commitment to improving the applied practice of person-centeredness on behalf of nursing home residents and their circles of support. This commitment arises out of the following:

- 1) Longstanding evidence and report of experience indicate that nursing home care does not typically address the goals, preferences, and priorities (GPP) of individual residents.
- 2) An enduring reality, which has not been adequately measured or understood, is that residents of color and people who identify as LGBTQIA, among other populations, experience disparities in access, care experience, and outcomes, as compared to majority culture residents.
- 3) Emerging evidence that suggests that aligning care with residents' GPP represents an opportunity to improve outcomes overall and reduce disparities associated with race, ethnicity, gender orientation, and other features of the resident population.

To this end, the Committee has selected the following NASEM recommendations and associated strategies.

Our Approach

6A: Measure of Resident and Family Experience

The committee has selected this recommendation as a primary area of focus in that it centers on measures of resident and family experience. That said, the committee does not plan to focus on CAHPS (Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems). While CAHPS does have value, the committee believes that it would be more fruitful and relevant to focus on two specific strategies:

- 1) To identify and test one or more resident experience of care measures. A non-exclusive example of such a measure is the Long-Term Care Quality of Life (LTC QoL) ([LTC-QoL: LTC-QoL Example](#)). To fulfill the committee's aims, any measure(s) that is selected must address each of the following elements:
 - “All my priorities have been addressed” (goals)
 - “In a manner acceptable to me” (preferences)
 - “To produce results that I value” (outcomes of care)

Process steps will include an environmental scan, assessment of the fit of measures, selection of measure(s), and testing.

- 2) To research and promote best practices in the adoption of nursing home resident councils.

Process steps will include an environmental scan and the development of a recommendation around the best means of promoting local adoption of this approach.

6D: Health Equity Strategy

The committee has selected this recommendation as a primary care of focus in that it will be a critical companion to the GPP-focused work that will illuminate progress toward equity for people of color and those who identify as LGBTQIA, among others. Here the committee proposes to focus on identifying and testing a measure that will support the examination of whether disparities are improving over time. Process steps will include an environmental scan, an assessment of the fit of measures, and testing.

Note: For all work completed to fulfill the recommendations, we will work with residents, surveyors, administrators, technical experts, CNAs, and other subject matter experts to ensure we have feedback on the work under development.

Progress Update

Since November, the committee has made considerable progress across its short-term initiatives.

- 1) The committee has deepened collaboration with both Committee #1 (Person-Centered Care) and Committee #7 (Health Information Technology) to devise an action plan for developing measures of resident care. The committee will continue to work in tandem with these other groups to ensure a cohesive vision for how nursing homes can collect goals, preferences, and priorities, implement person-driven care plans, and measure the quality of the care they provide. Committee 6 will also develop a measure of concordance for goals, preferences, and priorities between the care provided and the resident's goals.
- 2) The committee has refocused its equity-related efforts on two goals.
 - a. The committee will submit a letter in response to a recently proposed rule relating to ethnicity and race data collection. The White House published updated Office of Management and Budget standards for asking about and documenting race and ethnicity across settings. A notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) has been published in the Federal Register for comment (roughly a 70-day comment period).¹ The group plans to offer a rationale for why this rule is important in nursing homes and why the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services in particular should adopt it.
 - b. The committee will develop measures to determine whether initiatives taken across the Coalition successfully advance equity.
- 3) The committee has also honed its focus on resident councils to look particularly at best practices and testing of Resident Family Community Advisory Councils. These expanded resident councils may have the potential to better support high-quality care and ensure administrative accountability while continuing to center the resident's voice.

¹ The Federal Register notice can be viewed [here](#).