



O91

Making the Case for Cross-Pollination between Quality Measures and Clinical Practice Guidelines

Mary Nix¹, Vivian Coates², Lisa Haskell², Mark Monteforte²

¹Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Rockville, MD, United States, ²ECRI Institute, Plymouth Meeting, PA, United States

Background: Measures of health care quality are one derivative product of evidence-based clinical practice guidelines. In an ideal world, process and outcome health care quality measures are derived from recommendations presented in rigorously developed guidelines. In reality, even within the same organization, quality measures and guidelines often follow separate and distinct development tracks with few, if any, intersections. As a result, neither may reach its full potential in terms of dissemination, implementation and use. In addition, guideline recommendations may be problematic (i.e., ambiguous and/or incomplete) when used as the basis for specifying process or outcome measures.

Purpose: To present specific examples of organizations that develop both clinical practice guidelines and quality measures, examine their development processes, and glean information that might be applicable to the broader international guideline and quality measurement community.

Methods: The development processes of U.S. and non-U.S. organizations participating in both the National Guideline Clearinghouse (NGC) and National Quality Measures Clearinghouse (NQMC) that create both guidelines and related quality measures will be studied. The composition of the guideline and measure development committees, development methods used, and connections between the guidelines and measures are areas of interest.

Results: Common attributes/processes/methods of development will be reported along with any apparent patterns of similarity or difference.

Discussion: The guideline and quality measures development communities could both benefit from some degree of cross-pollination. As sponsor of the NGC and NQMC, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality is in a unique position to review the development of both guidelines and quality measures to provide meaningful insight.