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AHIMA Responds to Draft National Quality Forum (NQF) Report Titled “*Driving Quality: A Model to Measure Electronic Health IT Use*”

The National Quality Forum (NQF) released a draft report from the Health IT Utilization Expert Panel. The report examines, defines and organizes the information needed to measure effective health information technology (IT) use to better understand how health IT tools can improve the efficiency, quality, and safety of healthcare delivery. This project builds upon the NQF Quality Data Set (QDS) model, a framework developed to clearly define concepts used in quality measures and clinical care to drive the use of quality measurement based on information available from an EHR.

The comments below were compiled with input from AHIMA members and staff and submitted to NQF through their online [comment log](#).

Overall Health IT Use Data Model

AHIMA commends NQF’s efforts to define the information needed to measure effectiveness of health IT use. We believe the model is an important step in advancing meaningful use of EHR systems and enabling more effective research of unintended consequences of health IT.

Actors/Content/Actions

The Health IT Use Data Model components are easy to understand and provide a good baseline for expressing actors, content and actions. AHIMA supports the panel’s intent to enable the model to evolve over time as it is tested and implemented. We recommend that the Health IT Use Data Model be vetted in conjunction with the QDS Model to ensure consistency and alignment.

Line 1406 in Appendix D, item number 35 (Document Smoking Status) appears to be a duplicate.

Other Report Content or General Comments

It is difficult for the reader to locate the Panel’s recommendations in the report text. AHIMA suggests that the recommendations be emphasized and more clearly articulated by incorporating bolded recommendation statements followed by narrative text that describes the rationale and the industry stakeholders responsible for advancing the recommendation.

AHIMA also suggests including a recommendation that describes how the industry should be educated about the model to help further advance testing, enhancement, and use.