

# MATERNAL HEALTH TECHNICAL EXPERT PANEL (TEP) CHARTER

**Project Title:** Development and Reevaluation of Maternal Health Measures and Designation

**TEP Expected Time Commitment and Dates:**

There will be three TEP meetings, with the first meeting anticipated to be the last week of August 2024, the second meeting anticipated to be the last week of September 2024, and the third meeting anticipated to be mid-November 2024. Each meeting is expected to last 2 hours and will be virtually hosted.

**Project Overview:**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) contracted the Yale New Haven Health Services Corporation – Center for Outcomes Research and Evaluation (CORE) to develop, reevaluate, and support the implementation of several maternal health measures and the expansion of CMS’ Birthing-Friendly Hospital Designation. The CORE contract name is Development, Reevaluation, and Implementation of Outcome/Efficiency Measures for Hospital and Eligible Clinicians, Base Period. The CORE contract number HHSM-75FCMC18D0042, Task Order HHSM-75FCMC24F0042. As part of its measure development process, CORE convenes groups of stakeholders who contribute direction and thoughtful input to the measure developer during measure development and maintenance.

**Project Objectives:**

The objectives of this project are the expansion of CMS’ Maternal Morbidity Structural Measure (MMSM) and the expansion of CMS’ Birthing-Friendly Hospital Designation. The MMSM is currently designed to assess whether or not a hospital participates in a Statewide or National Perinatal Quality Improvement (QI) Collaborative initiative and implements patient safety practices and/or bundles related to maternal morbidity from that QI Collaborative. CMS aims to expand the MMSM for a more comprehensive approach to assessing hospital commitment to quality maternal care with additional domains and attestation statements. The Birthing-Friendly Hospital Designation, designed to drive improvements in maternal care delivery by recognizing hospitals and health systems committed to improving maternal health, is currently awarded to hospitals and health systems based on their positive response to the MMSM. CMS aims to incorporate additional health quality measures into the Designation and award the Designation based on a composite scoring of included measures.

**Technical Expert Panel (TEP) Objectives:**

The TEP is a group of stakeholders and experts who will provide input on the expansion of the MMSM and Birthing-Friendly Hospital Designation. Convening a national TEP ensures transparency and provides an opportunity to obtain balanced input from multiple stakeholders. TEP members are chosen to provide input based on their personal experience, professional experience, expertise, or organizational perspective, and to represent a diversity of perspectives and backgrounds. CORE follows CMS’ structured and standardized approach to TEP participation, including steps to ensure substantial input from experts and the public.

**TEP Requirements:**

A TEP of approximately 20 individuals will provide input on the expansion of the MMSM and expansion and scoring methodology for and awarding of the Birthing-Friendly Hospital Designation. The TEP will be

composed of individuals with differing areas of expertise and perspectives, including: clinical experts in maternal care, chairs of obstetrical/gynecologic departments, hospital administrators (including chief quality officers or other hospital quality administrators), perinatal quality improvement experts, health equity and birth justice experts, statistical and performance measurement experts, and consumer/patient/family (caregiver) experts.

**Scope of Responsibilities:**

The TEP's role is to provide input on measure decisions to expand the MMSM with additional domains and evaluate the measure's face validity, and to provide input and recommendations on the scoring approach of the Birthing-Friendly Hospital Designation.

CORE will provide meeting agendas and background materials to TEP members prior to the meetings. We will summarize member comments and recommendations in a publicly available report.

Specific responsibilities of TEP members will be to:

- Complete and submit all nomination materials, including the TEP Nomination Form, letter of interest, disclosure of conflicts of interest, and curriculum vitae.
- Review background materials provided by CORE prior to each TEP meeting.
- Attend and actively participate in the virtual TEP meetings.
- Provide input and feedback to CORE on key clinical, methodological, and other decisions.
- Provide input and feedback to CORE on key policy or other non-technical issues.
- Review the TEP summary report prior to public release; and
- Be available to discuss recommendations and perspectives following TEP meetings and the public release of the TEP summary report.

**Guiding Principles:**

Participation as a TEP member is voluntary and the measure developer records the participant's input in the meeting minutes, which the measure developer will summarize in a report that they may disclose to the public. If a participant has chosen to disclose private, personal data, then related material and communications are not covered by patient-provider confidentiality. Patient/caregiver participants may elect to keep their names confidential in public documents. TEP organizers will answer any questions about confidentiality.

All potential TEP members must disclose any significant financial interest or other relationships that may influence their perceptions or judgment. It is unethical to conceal (or fail to disclose) conflicts of interest. However, there is no intent for the disclosure requirement to prevent individuals with particular perspectives or strong points of view from serving on the TEP. The intent of full disclosure is to inform the measure developer, other TEP members, and CMS about the source of TEP members' perspectives and how that might affect discussions or recommendations.

The TEP will be asked to weigh in on measure decisions and CORE will ensure each member can openly share their feedback. TEP members may be asked to complete surveys or review measure language in between meetings.

**Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings:**

CORE plans to convene three TEP meetings, with the first meeting anticipated to be the last week of

August 2024, the second meeting anticipated to be last week of September 2024, and third meeting anticipated to be mid-November 2024. Each meeting is expected to last 2 hours and will be virtually hosted.

**Date Approved by TEP:**

TBD.

**TEP Membership:**

TBD.