

# Technical Expert Panel (TEP) Charter

## Project Title:

Standing Technical Expert Panel (TEP) for the Development, Evaluation, and Maintenance of Post-Acute Care (PAC) and Hospice Quality Reporting Program (QRP) Measurement Sets

## TEP Expected Time Commitment and Dates:

Selected nominees will serve on a standing committee to support the evaluation and maintenance of PAC QRP measurement sets for the Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility (IRF), Long-Term Care Hospital (LTCH), Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF), Home Health (HH) and Hospice settings. Selected nominees can expect to be contacted on an annual, or as needed, basis for up to five years.

Selected nominees will be expected to attend the first TEP meeting in **November 2023** (specific dates to be determined) and a pre-TEP webinar approximately **1-2 week(s)** prior to meeting date. All meetings will be held virtually.

## Project Overview:

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has contracted with Acumen, LLC and Abt Associates Inc. (hereafter referred to as Acumen and Abt) to support the development, evaluation, and maintenance of quality and cost measures for use in the Post-Acute Care (PAC) and Hospice Quality Reporting Program (QRP) and Nursing Home Compare as mandated by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) of 2010 and the Improving Medicare Post-Acute Care Transformation (IMPACT) Act of 2014. Acumen's contract name is "Quality Measure & Assessment Instrument Development & Maintenance & QRP Support for the Long Term Care Hospital, Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility, Skilled Nursing Facility, Quality Reporting Programs, & Nursing Home Compare." The contract number is 75FCMC18D0015, Task Order 75FCMC19F0003. Abt's contract name is "Home Health and Hospice Quality Reporting Program Quality Measures and Assessment Instruments Development, Modification and Maintenance, & Quality Reporting Program Oversight Support." The contract number is 75FCMC18D0014, Task Order 75FCMC19F0001.

As part of its measure development process, Acumen and Abt convene groups of stakeholders and experts who contribute direction and input during measure development and maintenance.

## Project Objectives:

PAC QRPs aim to characterize provider performance across various dimensions of care. With the support of Acumen and Abt, CMS refines and develops QRP measures to ensure that (a) Medicare beneficiaries and their caregivers have high-impact, meaningful performance data to assist in making informed healthcare decisions; and (b) providers have actionable information to guide performance improvement efforts without being overburdened by reporting requirements. Acumen and Abt are convening this TEP to evaluate the measurement sets across the IRF, LTCH, SNF, HH, and Hospice setting, with a focus on identifying measurement gaps, and ensuring measures align with CMS program requirements and goals.

Acumen and Abt will organize a panel of stakeholders from a broad base of expertise (e.g., clinical, policy and program, measure development, technical, etc.) and solicit their input regarding the PAC and Hospice QRP measurement sets and future measure concepts. This input will be used to inform new measure development and maintenance of PAC and Hospice quality measures.

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

The TEP will provide input and guidance on the evaluation of the PAC and Hospice QRP measurement sets and inform new measure development and maintenance of PAC and Hospice quality measures. Specifically, we will seek guidance on the following:

- Input on the framework used to assess PAC and Hospice measurement gaps;
- Input on new measure domains and future measure concepts identified;
- Input on the alignment of the PAC and Hospice QRPs with the Universal Foundation measures; and
- Recommendations for the further exploration, development, and maintenance of PAC and Hospice QRP measures.

**TEP Requirements:**

A TEP of approximately 12-15 individuals will provide guidance on concepts related to the evaluation of the PAC measurement sets and new measure development and maintenance of PAC and Hospice quality measures. The TEP will be composed of individuals with differing areas of expertise and perspectives, including but not limited to:

- Clinical experts with knowledge or experience working in the IRF, LTCH, SNF/NH, HH and Hospice settings;
- Other subject matter experts or independent researchers with expertise or working knowledge of IRF, LTCH, SNF/NH, HH and Hospice settings;
- Clinical experts or independent researchers with expertise in healthcare disparities;
- Independent researchers or representatives from consumer stakeholder organizations;
- Measure development experts;
- Quality improvement specialists;
- Patient/Family (Caregivers) who received care in a PAC and Hospice setting; and
- Clinical experts or independent researchers with expertise using the assessment tools or Medicare claims data.

**Scope of Responsibilities:**

The TEP's role is to provide input and advice to Acumen and Abt on the evaluation and maintenance of the PAC and Hospice quality measurement sets, new measure development and maintenance of PAC and Hospice quality measures. Holding a TEP allows Acumen and Abt to leverage the members' experience, which increases the clinical and face validity of the measures and helps to maximize the number of critical dimensions of care being addressed. As such, members are expected to attend all meetings and to notify Acumen and Abt should circumstances change where they no longer wish to participate. Acumen and Abt will work with members to schedule meetings at least one month in

advance. In the case of last-minute scheduling conflicts, Acumen and Abt ask members to provide any feedback or thoughts on the materials and discussion questions for Acumen and Abt to share with the panel. In some circumstances, a TEP member may designate a temporary replacement from their organization. Any substitute is subject to approval, as we strive to ensure a balanced and diverse composition.

If a TEP member is no longer able to meet membership commitments, Acumen and Abt will identify a replacement from the nominees from the most recent call for nominations or by working with the TEP member's affiliated professional society to nominate another member. Upon identification of an appropriate alternate member any TEP obligations will transfer to the replacement TEP member.

### **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.

Input, advice, and recommendations by TEP members will be considered by the measure developer. An appointed TEP chair will help facilitate discussion and build consensus.

### **Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings:**

Selected nominees can expect to be contacted on an annual, or as needed, basis for up to five years.

The first TEP will be scheduled to meet virtually in **October and November 2023:**

- **One-hour** pre-TEP webinar in **October 2023** (specific date to be determined). This meeting serves as an orientation and will be held approximately 1-2 week(s) prior to the TEP meeting date.
- **Two four-hour** TEP Meetings in **November 2023** (specific dates to be determined based on availability of selected members.)
- If necessary and feasible, follow-up webinars will be held to present decisions made on TEP input.

### **Date Approved by TEP:**

TBD

**TEP Membership:**

TBD