



# Effective Health Care

## Effectiveness of Health Care Quality Indicators Based on Functional Status and Health-Related Quality of Life (HRQoL) in Elderly Patients with Multiple Chronic Conditions Nomination Summary Document

### Results of Topic Selection Process & Next Steps

- The topic area, *Effectiveness of Health Care Quality Indicators Based on Functional Status and Health-Related Quality of Life (HRQoL) in Elderly Patients with Multiple Chronic Conditions*, is important, but is not feasible for a systematic review. No further activity on this topic will be undertaken by the Effective Health Care (EHC) Program.

### Topic Description

**Nominator(s):** Individual

**Nomination Summary:** The topic was nominated by a physician who is interested in the use and implementation of health care quality measures based on functional status and health-related quality of life (HRQoL) for patients with multiple chronic conditions. The nominator noted that while there are several such quality indicators currently under development, there is no clear evidence on the appropriateness of such measures for patients with multiple chronic conditions and on whether implementation of these quality measures improves care of these patients. The nominator believes that a systematic review of the appropriateness, usability, and feasibility of such quality indicators for the elderly population with multiple chronic conditions could help to inform health care quality measures development and implementation.

#### **Staff-Generated PICO**

**Population(s):** Elderly patients with multiple chronic conditions

**Intervention(s):** Implementation of health care quality measures based on functional status and HRQoL

**Comparator(s):** Implementation of health care quality measures based on other processes and outcomes, no implementation of quality measurement

**Outcome(s):** Morbidity, mortality, occurrence of adverse events, pain, functional status, quality of life, patient satisfaction, other indicators of quality of care, and negative outcomes associated with poor measure reliability, validity, feasibility, and usability

**Key Questions from Nominator:** What are the benefits and harms of implementing quality indicators based on functional status and health-related quality of life for elderly patients with multiple chronic conditions?

## Considerations

- One in four Americans is affected by multiple chronic conditions, and nearly 50% of patients in the Medicare program are affected by three or more chronic conditions. Chronic and comorbid conditions complicate the delivery of health care as patients are at an increased risk for poor functional status, adverse events, unnecessary hospitalizations and mortality. These patients are also more likely to receive conflicting medical advice.
- Quality indicators, used in public reporting, pay for performance, or internal quality improvement initiatives, have the potential to identify poor outcomes and improve the quality of care. Functional status and HRQoL quality measures are two types of quality indicators, both of which are focused on patient outcomes. It is unclear if these measures appropriately capture the experience of individuals with multiple comorbidities, and if their use and implementation will improve care quality.
- While this topic is important, there was limited relevant published literature and ongoing research that addressed this topic. Identified studies provided insight into the development and use of quality indicators for elderly patients with multiple comorbidities, but varied widely in areas of focus, which limited the feasibility of a systematic review.
- The impact of an AHRQ product may be limited due to low interest from potential partner organizations at this time.