



**For Immediate Release**

September 27, 2017

## **Data On Unplanned Hospital Readmissions Will Inform Improvements In Cancer Care, Help Patients Achieve Better Quality Of Life**

*New Quality Measurement Developed By Dedicated Cancer Centers Endorsed By National Quality Forum, Recognized By CMS For Potential Implementation*

**WASHINGTON, DC** – The National Quality Forum (NQF) has endorsed a new measure developed by the Alliance of Dedicated Cancer Centers (ADCC) that assesses unplanned hospital readmissions for cancer patients. This new measure will provide national and hospital-level data that will be used to provide new insights and strategies for improving the quality of cancer care nationwide.

Starting in 2012, ADCC embarked on a multi-year project analyzing Medicare data to identify patterns of readmissions in patients with a cancer diagnosis, and specifying and testing the measure. The ADCC measure was submitted to NQF in January, and NQF’s Clinical Scientific Advisory Committee endorsed the measure in July 2017.

In addition, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recognized the ADCC readmission measure for consideration in the Cancer Hospital Reporting Program.

“Given that most cancer treatment today is provided on an outpatient basis, reducing readmissions into inpatient facilities is good for patients and reduces costs nationally,” said Karen Bird, ADCC’s Executive Director. “NQF’s endorsement of this measure will change how we measure quality in cancer care over time. And CMS’s recognition of this measure shows that dedicated cancer centers can influence measure implementation with the goal of improving the quality of life of cancer patients.”

The new ADCC measure distinguishes between planned readmissions – such as scheduled chemotherapy and radiation treatments – and those that are not anticipated – such as treatment for disease- or treatment-related complications. This cancer-specific measure of unplanned readmissions will give cancer care providers a better understanding of the nature of unplanned admissions and develop new, targeted strategies for reducing them as part of a comprehensive effort to support patients receiving cancer treatment.

“Readmissions measures should not be the same across all diseases,” said Barb Jagels, Chief Quality Officer at the Seattle Cancer Care Alliance, a member of ADCC. “NQF’s endorsement of a disease-specific readmissions quality measure is a significant acknowledgment that cancer patients must be analyzed through the lens of the unique care they receive.”

For more information on NQF’s endorsement of ADCC’s readmissions measure, [click here](#).

###

The Alliance of Dedicated Cancer Centers (ADCC) is comprised of 11 institutions that are singularly focused on cancer:

- City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center (Duarte, CA)
- Dana-Farber Cancer Institute (Boston, MA)
- Fox Chase Cancer Center (Philadelphia, PA)
- James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute (Columbus, OH)
- Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute (Tampa, FL)
- MD Anderson Cancer Center (Houston, TX)
- Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (New York, NY)
- Roswell Park Cancer Institute (Buffalo, NY)
- Seattle Cancer Care Alliance (Seattle, WA)
- Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center (Miami, FL)
- USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center (Los Angeles, CA)

Its mission is to assist its member institutions in their ongoing efforts to improve outcomes and experiences for cancer patients through better understanding of the biology of cancer, translating new discoveries into innovative therapies, and providing the highest quality care to people facing a cancer diagnosis.

The National Quality Forum (NQF) is a not-for-profit, nonpartisan organization that works to catalyze improvements in healthcare. NQF measures and standards serve as a critically important foundation for initiatives to enhance healthcare value, make patient care safer, and achieve better outcomes.