



SUBJECT: Quality Committee Charter

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DEPARTMENT: Board of Directors

EFFECTIVE: 12/1/11

APPROVED BY: Board of Directors (12/1/11)

REVISED: 3/27/13

Purpose:

Consistent with the Mission of the District the Board, with the assistance of its Quality Committee (QC), serves as the steward for overall quality improvement for the District. The QC shall constitute a committee of the District Board of Directors. The Board shall refer all matters brought to it by any party regarding the quality of patient care, patient safety, and patient satisfaction to the QC for review, assessment, and recommended Board action. The QC makes recommendations and reports to the Board. It has no authority to make decisions or take actions on behalf of the District unless the Board specifically delegates such authority. The QC shall assist the Board in its responsibility to ensure that the Hospital provides high-quality patient care, patient safety, and patient satisfaction. To this end the QC shall:

1. Formulate policy to convey Board expectations and directives for Board action;
2. Make recommendations to the Board among alternative courses of action, including but not limited to physician credentialing, and oversight activities;
3. Provide oversight, monitoring and assessment of key organizational processes, outcomes, and external reports.

Policy:

SCOPE AND APPLICABILITY

This is a SVHCD Board Policy and it specifically applies to the Board, the Quality Committee, the Audit Committee, the Medical Staff, and the CEO of SVH.

RESPONSIBILITY

Physician Credentialing

1. The QC shall ensure that recommendations from the Medical Executive Committee and Medical Staff are in accordance with the standards and requirements of the Medical Staff Bylaws, Rules, and Regulations with regard to: completed applications for initial medical staff and allied health staff appointment; initial staff category assignment, initial department/divisional affiliation; membership prerogatives and initial clinical privileges; completed applications for reappointment of medical staff, staff category; clinical privileges; establishment of categories of allied health professionals permitted to practice at the hospital; the appointment and reappointment of allied health professionals; and privileges granted to allied health professionals.
2. The QC shall, in closed session, on a case by case basis, fully, rigorously, and carefully review the recommendations of the Medical Staff regarding the appointment, reappointment, and privilege delineation of physicians and submit recommendations to the Board for review and action.



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Develop Policies

1. The QC shall submit recommendations for action to the Board on draft policies developed by the QC and those developed by the Hospital regarding quality patient care, patient safety, and patient satisfaction.

Oversight

Annual Quality Improvement Plan

1. The QC shall review and analyze findings and recommendations from the CEO resulting from the Hospital's prior year Annual Quality Improvement Plan, including but not limited to a comparison of the plan to actual accomplishments, administrative review, and evaluation activities conducted, findings and actions taken, system or process failures and actions taken to improve safety, both proactively and in response to actual occurrences.
2. The QC shall review the Hospital's Annual Quality Improvement Plan for continuously improving quality, patient safety, and patient satisfaction and submit the analysis with recommendations establishing priorities to the Board for discussion and action. The Hospital's plans should include, but not be limited to, assessing the effectiveness and results of the quality review using metrics and benchmarks, utilization review, performance improvement, implementing and improving electronic medical/health records, professional education, risk management programs, and patient care related activities and policies of the Hospital and/or Medical Staff, as applicable.



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Medical Staff Bylaws

1. The QC shall assure that the Medical Staff's Bylaws are reviewed and approved by the Board and are consistent with the District and Hospital Mission, Vision and Values, Board policy, and accreditation standard, prevailing standards of care, and evidence-based practices.
2. The QC shall review the Medical Staff's fulfillment of its responsibilities in accordance with the Medical Staff Bylaws, applicable law and regulation, and accreditation standards and make recommendations to the Board.

Quantitative Quality Measures

1. The QC shall assess and recommend quantitative measures to be used by our Board in assessing the quality of the Medical Staff's and Hospital's services and submit them to the Board for deliberation and action. The recommendations shall include descriptions that show how the organization measures and reports the improvement of patient care, as well as management accountability.
2. The QC shall review all reports by and Hospital responses to accreditation organizations, e.g., Fire Marshals, Environmental Health, State Department of Health Services (DHS), and other external organizations conducting management, programmatic, physical plant audits/assessments/reviews that are directly or indirectly related to the quality of health care delivery in the Hospital (quality patient care, patient safety, and patient satisfaction). Track all uncompleted/open items until remedied/closed by the Hospital, and make recommendations and report to the Board for its action as appropriate. This includes the final OSHPD report on a construction project prior to licensing by DHS, but it does not include on-going OSHPD reviews/inspections/reports while a project is in design or construction. This does not include routine financial audits, unless the audit identifies quality patient care, patient safety, and/or patient satisfaction issues, in which case the Audit Committee shall refer the audit to the QC for its review and recommendations to the Board.
3. The QC shall ensure there is an effective, supportive, and confidential process for anyone (the Medical Staff, other health care professionals; Hospital administration; leaders and staff; patients, and their families and friends; and the public) to bring issues to the QC directly or via the Hospital—as a group, personally or anonymously—in order to promote the reporting of quality and patient safety problems and medical errors, and to protect those who ask questions and report problems.
4. The QC shall review and assess the process for identifying, reporting, and analyzing “adverse patient events” and medical errors. The QC shall develop a process for the QC



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to address these quality deficiencies, in the most transparent manner possible, without unnecessarily increasing the District's liability exposure.

5. The QC shall review the assessment of patient needs/satisfaction, and submit this assessment with recommendations to the Board for review and possible action. This may include, but is not limited to CMS Value Based Purchasing information; Press Ganey surveys; reports and comparisons to other hospitals, state and national standards; and patient and/or family compliments and complaints.
6. The QC shall review and assess the system for resolving interpersonal conflicts among individuals working within the Hospital environment that could adversely affect quality of care, patient safety or patient satisfaction, and make recommendations to the Board.

Hospital Policies

1. The QC shall assure that the Hospital's administrative policies and procedures, including the policies and procedures relative to quality, patient safety and patient satisfaction, are reviewed and approved by the appropriate Hospital leaders, submitted to the Board for action, and are consistent with the District and Hospital Mission, Vision and Values, Board policy, accreditation standards, and prevailing standards of care and evidence-based practices.

Other

1. Perform other duties related to high-quality patient care, patient safety, and patient satisfaction as assigned by the Board.

Annual QC Work Plan

The QC shall develop an Annual QC Work Plan comprised of the required annual activities and additional activities selected by the QC. The Annual QC Work Plan shall be reviewed and acted on by the Board after considering the CEO's work plan to support the QC.



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Required Annual Calendar Activities:

1. The QC shall review the adequacy of financial and human resources currently allocated for maintaining high-quality care, patient safety, and patient satisfaction in April, in advance of the annual budget process and provide an assessment to the Board and CEO with recommendations for action.
2. The QC Work Plan shall be submitted to the Board for its review and action no later than December.
3. The QC shall report on the status of its prior year's work plan accomplishments by December.
4. The QC reviews and assesses all Board policies regarding quality specifically including the QC Charter, and makes recommendations to the Board for action in December.

QC Membership and Staff

The QC shall have seven voting members and three non-voting public member alternates appointed pursuant to Board policy. Pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 32155, based on the need for Medical Staff quality assessments. Hospital employees who staff the QC are not voting members of the QC. QC membership is:

- Two Board members one of whom shall be the QC chair, the other the vice-chair. Substitutions may be made by the Board chair for Board QC members at any QC meeting--for one or both Board members.
- Two designated positions from the Medical Staff leadership, i.e., the President and the President-Elect. Substitutions may be made by the President for one Medical Staff member at any QC meeting.
- Three members of the public. In addition, substitutions may be made at all QC meetings from three prioritized non-voting members of the public as alternate public members. Alternates shall attend closed session QC meetings and vote as QC members when substituting for a voting public member. Alternates may attend QC meetings as non-voting alternates and fully participate in the open meeting discussions.

Staff to the QC include the Hospital's Chief Medical Officer (CMO), Chief Nursing Officer (CNO), and the Director of Quality and Resource Management who shall be the lead staff in support of the QC Chair for meetings, documents, and activities. Staff is expected to attend the QC meetings. The CEO may attend all QC and subcommittee meetings and shall be a resource at the QC meetings upon request of the QC Chair.



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Frequency of QC Meetings

The QC shall meet monthly, unless there is a need for additional meetings.

Public Participation

All QC meetings shall be announced and conducted pursuant to the Brown Act. Physician Credentialing and Privileges are discussed and action is taken in QC Closed Session without the general public.

The general public, patients and their families and friends, Medical Staff, and Hospital staff are always welcome to attend and provide input. Other Board members may attend but may not comment as it may be a Brown Act violation.

Narrowly focused and short term ad hoc subcommittees may meet to address specific issues that will be brought to the QC for review and referral to the Board for its deliberation and action. Subcommittee meetings are not subject to the Brown Act.

Reference:

POLICY HISTORY

December 1, 2011--Board Policy regarding the QC was first adopted.

FREQUENCY OF REVIEW/REVISION

This shall occur annually or more often if required. If revisions are needed they will be taken to the Board for action.