

The Scoring and Interpretation of Health Outcomes

Faculty: John E. Ware, Jr., Ph.D., Chief Science Officer & CEO, QualityMetric Incorporated; Senior Scientist and Executive Director, Health Assessment Lab; Research Professor, Tufts University School of Medicine

Description: In answer to one of the most common questions in health care - “What do the results mean?” - this workshop provides an overview of how health outcomes measures should be scored and interpreted. Published and unpublished examples illustrate the tradeoffs between the options of scoring and interpreting health profiles versus summary measures. Interpretation guidelines include comparisons with general population norms, disease-specific benchmarks, clinical and other standards of importance, and results from predictive studies (e.g., medical expenditures, return to work and work productivity, and mortality). Specific examples of the SF-36 and other widely-used tools are presented to illustrate the interpretation of results from population surveys, clinical trials and outcomes research, and individual patient assessments in clinical practice to address the needs of different audiences. Participants are encouraged bring issues and/or questions to be discussed and answered during the workshop.