Figures 1 and 2 submitted as part of Sep 2022 public comment on NQF Measure #3450

Figure 1. Data from 2019/2020 and 2021

Box and whisker plots showing hospital-level values for the Practice Environment Scale of the Nursing Work Index (composite in blue and representative item from each subscale), from registered nurse survey data from a panel of 217 general acute care hospitals in two large U.S. states (NY, IL) in two waves. Wave 1 was December 2019 – January 2020. Wave 2 was April - June 2021, collected in sponsored research conducted by the Center for Health Outcomes and Policy Research, funded by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (Linda H. Aiken, PI).

Note: The Wave 2 during-pandemic data exhibit greater variation in the first (maroon) and fourth (aqua) subscales than the pre-pandemic Wave 1 data.
Figure 2. Data from 2015/2016.

Box and whisker plots showing hospital-level values for the Practice Environment Scale of the Nursing Work Index (composite in blue and subscales), from registered nurse survey data from 525 general acute care hospitals in four large U.S. states (CA, PA, NJ, FL) in 2015, collected in sponsored research conducted by the Center for Health Outcomes and Policy Research, funded by the National Institute of Nursing Research (R01-NR014855, Linda H. Aiken, PI).

Note. These data from 2015 exhibit less variation than in Figure 1. This is evident because the y axis here has 1.5 as its lower bound. Figure 1 has 1.0 as its lower bound. Therefore, the values over the period 2015 (Figure 2) to 2019/20/21 have widened, demonstrating an increasing performance gap and even more suboptimal performance in the more recent timeperiod.