



THE NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM'S MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

June 2004

The National Quality Forum's (NQF) mission is to improve American healthcare through endorsement of consensus-based national standards for measurement and public reporting of healthcare performance data that provide meaningful information about whether care is safe, timely, beneficial, patient-centered, equitable and efficient.

NQF is broad-based, composed of public and private healthcare purchasers, providers, consumers and research and quality improvement organizations. Together, the more than 200 organizational members of NQF work to promote a common approach to measuring and reporting healthcare quality. In support of this important effort, membership provides:

A "Seat at the Table" in National Decision-Making of:

- **Home Health Care Performance Measures.** This project seeks consensus on a comprehensive set of standardized performance measures that can be used to assess the quality of home health care in the United States. This project will also identify a framework for how to measure home healthcare, giving special attention to coordination of care across the continuum of health care delivery; endorse a set of evidence-based performance measures for evaluating the quality of home health care; and prioritize unresolved issues regarding performance measurement and research needs.
- **National Voluntary Consensus Standards for Ambulatory Care Quality Measurement and Reporting – Phase I.** The ambulatory care setting (outpatient care) is the principal venue for delivering medical care across the continuum from primary care to end-of-life care. Measuring and reporting the quality of outpatient services have become a focus in the healthcare industry as evidence accumulates about underuse, overuse, or misuse of services, resulting in unnecessary hospitalizations and poor outcomes. The first phase of this project will establish consensus around the priority topics within the ambulatory care setting that would benefit from the standardization of performance measurement sets and public reporting mechanisms.

- **Safety of Care for Patients with Limited English Proficiency.** This project will investigate the barriers to, and strategies for, implementing the NQF-endorsed Safe Practice on informed consent. The project will be applicable to all patients but will emphasize providers serving limited English proficiency and low-literacy populations.
- **Patient Safety Taxonomy.** Although efforts to identify and report information related to patient safety have multiplied, the healthcare system still has no standardized framework for classifying the data that would enable comparisons and analyses of data from across the many public and private reporting systems. This project will examine taxonomies and classification schemes that are in current use or development, to establish consensus on a single taxonomy for patient safety data reporting that can be integrated into clinical software and that will form the basis for comparable information across reporting systems and patient safety efforts.
- **Cardiac Surgery Performance Measures.** This project seeks national consensus on a comprehensive set of standardized performance measures that can be used to assess the quality of cardiac surgery in the United States. The project will identify a comprehensive initial set of performance measures consisting of two related groups: one appropriate for external accountability and public disclosure, and to be used for internal benchmarking and quality improvement.

Access to Unique Networking Opportunities and Valuable Communications

- Regular, advance updates on NQF activities;
- Advance access to NQF products and documents for review and endorsement;
- Exclusive or preferential participation on NQF Steering Committees, which guide projects such as those above;
- Reduced registration fees for attendees at the Annual Meeting;
- Gratis reports and reduced rates on publications;
- An NQF membership directory; and
- Access to a “Members Only” web site (www.qualityforum.org).

Should you have further questions about NQF, please contact Melissa Stegun at 202.783.1300.
