

# The National Priorities Partnership



Imagine a day when healthcare is consistently safe, affordable, equitable, and effective. Where no one is harmed as they heal. And when all Americans, and the communities they live in, are healthier than they are today.

This is happening in pockets of the country but is not yet our national reality. Until it is, the National Priorities Partnership (NPP) will continue its work.

The National Quality Forum convenes the NPP, as part of its overall mission to improve the healthcare system. The problems NPP seeks to solve are complex. However the NPP's guiding principle is quite simple—**power in numbers**. We can only achieve a safe, more value-driven healthcare system when all of those involved work together, with a shared vision, common purpose, and coordinated plan of attack.

## 3

### AIMS OF THE NATIONAL QUALITY STRATEGY

Better care  
Affordable care  
Healthy people and communities

## A BLUEPRINT FOR CHANGE

More than ten years ago, our nation awakened to a sobering reality: our healthcare system, that delivers innovative help and healing, was also generating preventable harm. People were suffering or dying from avoidable errors, and a picture of health 'have and have-nots' was emerging. Our collective healthcare bill was growing for services that often generated little value. All the while, we as a nation were experiencing more life-debilitating disease and watching our overall indicators of quality and health slip.

Various motivated organizations were spurred to take action in pursuit of making healthcare more value-driven. What they had in good intention, they lacked in a coordinated plan. That is where the idea of the National Priorities Partnership arose. Could multiple organizations—all with a vested stake in how healthcare is paid for, delivered, and received—band

together in articulating a national vision for making healthcare safer and people healthier? Would a prioritized "to-do" list help sharpen and innovate healthcare improvement efforts?

Years in the making, we now have a national blueprint for achieving a high-value healthcare system. Called "The National Quality Strategy (NQS)," it sets clear goals to help the collective public focus its efforts on improving the quality of health and healthcare. Working together on a focused set of activities will accelerate meaningful change.

The Secretary of Health and Human Services oversees the NQS, but it is shaped, owned, and implemented by the nation. All 51 National Priorities Partners worked together to advocate for the creation of this blueprint, and continue to shape its direction by offering annual input to the Secretary.

NPP HAS DEVELOPED SPECIALIZED EFFORTS AIMED AT:

# Reducing

- elective deliveries prior to 39 weeks to **5%** or less
- cesarean births among low-risk women to **15%** or less
- avoidable admissions and readmissions across all care settings by **20%**

## CATALYZING ACTION

Many organizations mobilized to achieve the promise of the NQS. And while the NQS goals are clear, for many the path and methods to get there are not always apparent. That's where the NPP has stepped in. It is focused on helping spread proven and scalable solutions; make connections across sectors and between organizations; and inspire people to take highly focused, coordinated action. Much of this work is happening as part of the Department of Health and Human Services' "Partnership for Patients" effort, which has two goals: reducing hospital-acquired conditions by 40% and preventable hospital readmissions by 20% by the end of 2013.

### Reducing Harm, Waste, and Cost

Establishing the "who, what, how and when" of action is the first step in solving large-scale challenges that cut across organizations and sectors. NPP's various partners and its extended network of contributors are working to develop these problem-solving pathways—with an initial focus on fashioning shared solutions to improving maternity care and reducing preventable readmissions. Once the path is clear, NPP creates adaptable materials and tools—all of which can help different organizations take coordinated action.

The emerging NPP model for developing cross-sector, multi-organization action plans can be applied to any safety issue, such as controlling adverse drug events.

## Educating and Connecting People in Pursuit of Better Health and Healthcare

### QUARTERLY FORUMS AND COMMUNITY BUILDING

NPP-hosted meetings are designed to identify innovative ways to meet Partnership for Patients' safety goals, and help good ideas spread. Convenings take place around both broad and very specific topics—all geared toward helping people make the connections they need to coordinate action.

### WEB-BASED TOOLS

New in 2012 is a web-based, interactive "registry" or hub where organizations can keep track of their own actions to advance the NQS; find partners to work with; and learn from others. Users drive content, so it is constantly evolving and getting enriched by those who use the tool.

NPP also developed a 13-part Patient Safety Webinar Series. To date it has reached more than 10,000 people across the country, many of whom are frontline caregivers. These webinars remain available online, for on-demand listening.

## LOOKING AHEAD

The vision of safe, affordable, value-driven healthcare is attainable. Americans can reverse current trends and become healthier and stronger. To get there faster, leaders from the public and private sectors must continue to row together in the same direction, toward the same finish line.

To learn more about the NPP, its partners and their actions, and how you can join forces, visit [www.qualityforum.org/NPP/](http://www.qualityforum.org/NPP/).