

NQF

NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM

**Child Healthcare  
Quality Measurement  
and Reporting**

WORKSHOP  
PROCEEDINGS

NQF

NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM

**Child Healthcare  
Quality Measurement  
and Reporting**

Sabrina Zadrozny,  
Elaine J. Power,  
Robyn Y. Nishimi, and  
Kenneth W. Kizer  
*Editors*

WORKSHOP  
PROCEEDINGS

# NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM

---

## Foreword

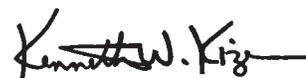
**A**lthough advances in public health and healthcare have dramatically improved the health of America's children, far too many children still do not receive healthcare services that would benefit them, and too many others receive inappropriate or harmful care. Moreover, healthcare for children is often difficult to access or of uneven quality. Systematic efforts are needed to improve the quality, availability, and equity of healthcare for children if continued health improvement is to be achieved.

It is important to recognize that children cannot be considered merely "little adults." They have their own unique physical and behavioral characteristics, and consequently, their healthcare needs differ from those of adults. This has important implications for quality measurement. Unfortunately, performance measures applicable to children are markedly underrepresented in the universe of national healthcare voluntary consensus standards.

On January 8, 2004, the National Quality Forum (NQF) convened a workshop to address the needs for performance measures and quality indicators in children's healthcare. The NQF workshop, "Child Healthcare Quality Measurement and Reporting," sought to identify appropriate child- and adolescent-focused healthcare performance measures and to recommend to NQF areas for further development. The workshop's 33 invited participants identified 7 immediate priorities and 2 potential priority areas for the standardization of children's healthcare measures and identified 3 potential priority areas where development of measures are needed. In addition, participants made recommendations about how the scope of future NQF projects should account for children.

We thank the National Association of Children's Hospitals and Related Institutions and the March of Dimes for their support of this workshop. We also thank the workshop's participants for their generous commitment of time and intellectual input.

NQF and its 215 Member organizations are committed to improving the quality of healthcare delivered to children through the advancement of national voluntary consensus standards for performance measurement and through public reporting.



Kenneth W. Kizer, MD, MPH  
President and Chief Executive Officer

© 2004 by the National Quality Forum  
All rights reserved

Printed in the U.S.A.

No part of this may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without prior written permission of the National Quality Forum. Requests for permission to reprint or make copies should be directed to:

Permissions  
National Quality Forum  
601 Thirteenth Street, NW, Suite 500 North  
Washington, DC 20005  
Fax 202.783.3434  
[www.qualityforum.org](http://www.qualityforum.org)

## NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM

---

# Child Healthcare Quality Measurement and Reporting

## Table of Contents

Executive Summary .....	vii
Conclusions .....	vii
Priorities .....	viii
Recommendations .....	viii
Introduction .....	1
Workshop Overview .....	2
Priorities and Measures in Children’s Healthcare .....	3
Workshop Discussion.....	6
Considerations in Establishing Priority Areas for NQF Activity.....	6
Discussion of Candidate Priorities.....	10
Recommended Priority Areas .....	12
Conclusions and Recommendations .....	13
Acknowledgments .....	14
References .....	14
Appendix A – Workshop Participants and Project Staff.....	A-1
Appendix B – Planning Group.....	B-1
Appendix C – Agenda.....	C-1
Appendix D – NQF-Endorsed Voluntary Consensus Standards with Explicit Reference to Children .....	D-1

## NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM

---

# Child Healthcare Quality Measurement and Reporting: Executive Summary

**P**erformance measurement and quality improvement are rapidly becoming integral parts of the day-to-day activities of healthcare organizations, and they are of great interest to purchasers and consumers of care. Performance measures specific to care for children, however, are not widely used outside of specialty settings, and they rarely appear in national measure sets. Given the unique healthcare needs and characteristics of children, the paucity of child-relevant measures in widespread use is problematic.

The National Quality Forum (NQF) has endorsed few standards pertaining to children in its activities to date. To address this problem, NQF convened a *Workshop on Child Healthcare Quality Measurement and Reporting* on January 8, 2004.<sup>1</sup> The workshop sought to identify areas where measures specific to and important to children and adolescents exist and to recommend priority areas for further NQF activities related to children.

## Conclusions

Workshop participants came to the following conclusions:

- Measures of the quality of healthcare that are meaningful for adults cannot be assumed to have the same applicability to healthcare for children. Children differ fundamentally from adults in their development, dependency, patterns of illness and disability, and demographic characteristics.
- Sufficient work on quality measurement exists in a number of children's healthcare priority areas to support national agreement on and implementation of quality measures relevant to children.

<sup>1</sup>The meeting discussion was supported by a background paper, "Measures of Children's Health Care Quality: Building towards Consensus," prepared by L. Simpson, D. Dougherty, D. Krause, C. Manyan-Ku, and J. Perrin, September 19, 2003, manuscript in preparation.

## Priorities

The group identified the following priorities for NQF regarding the standardization of quality measures and/or other related activities for children's healthcare:

### Top Priorities

- Asthma.
- Patient safety, particularly in inpatient settings.
- Children with special healthcare needs (CSHCN), including both condition-specific (e.g., cystic fibrosis) and non-disease-specific (e.g., coordination of care) measures.
- Preventive care, including (but not limited to) immunization, injury prevention, and avoidable hospitalizations.
- Coordination of care (both as a priority itself and as a measurable component of other priority areas).
- Perinatal care, particularly neonatal intensive care.
- Mental healthcare, including attention deficit disorder and other conditions with high prevalence and morbidity.

### Potential Priority Areas

- Other acute care areas, particularly trauma, pain, respiratory, and cardiovascular care. (The level of agreement among participants and the availability of evidence/measures for these areas were not as strong as those for the top-priority areas.)
- Usual source of care as a population-level measure of quality.

### Priority Areas Where Relevant Measures Are Needed

- Diabetes.
- Dental Care.
- Obesity.

## Recommendations

Workshop participants made the following recommendations:

### NQF should:

- engage immediately in national consensus projects in child healthcare quality measurement and pursue funding to standardize measures in collaboration with other organizations that are interested in the priority areas identified; and
- establish a policy to:
  - include children as a target population in all future NQF projects, or provide an explicit rationale if children are excluded; and
  - include experts knowledgeable in healthcare across the lifespan in all future NQF projects, as appropriate.

### NQF projects should:

- examine each candidate measure in general measure sets to evaluate its specific implications for children, including reporting and sample size implications;
- for measure sets aimed at children's healthcare, give specific consideration to the implications of public versus private healthcare coverage (e.g., implications of health plan enrollment lapses);
- as part of meeting the goal of addressing all six aims of healthcare quality, seek out and include measures of efficiency for children's healthcare in all relevant measure sets, and do not limit efficiency measures to inpatient care;
- ensure that state Medicaid agencies are involved in vetting child-focused measure sets; and
- seek a balance between standardization (for comparable results) and flexibility (to allow states to incorporate current approaches to assessment) of data sources.

## NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM PUBLICATION INFORMATION

### *Child Healthcare Quality Measurement and Reporting: Workshop Proceedings*

Document No.	Description	Member Price* #	Non-member Price#
NQFWF-03-04	Paperback, 36 pages	\$8.50 each, incl. shipping & handling (additional 10% discount on bulk orders of 10 or more copies shipped to one address)	\$12.75 each, incl. shipping & handling (10% discount on bulk orders of 10 or more copies shipped to one address)

\*Primary contacts for NQF member organizations will receive two complimentary copies.

#Orders directed to organizations or individuals in Washington, DC, must add 5.75% sales tax or provide a copy of your tax-exempt certificate with your order. For deliveries outside the United States, please contact us (202.783.1300 or fax below) for pricing information.

No. of copies \_\_\_\_\_ Cost of reports \_\_\_\_\_ Sales tax (5.75% DC) \_\_\_\_\_ Total cost \_\_\_\_\_

#### METHOD OF DELIVERY

U.S. Postal Service (included)

FedEx (Priority / Standard / 2-day / 3-day) [circle one]  
(FedEx used ONLY if a valid FedEx Acct. No. is provided)

Your FedEx Acct No. \_\_\_\_\_

#### METHOD OF PAYMENT

Payment enclosed (check or money order, U.S. dollars only)

Please invoice me (option ONLY for NQF Members)

Credit Card:  Visa  Mastercard Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address (for this credit card) \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amounts \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

If you are paying using a credit card, please make certain that the order form (including your signature) is forwarded ALONG WITH A PHOTOCOPY OF THE FRONT AND BACK OF THE CREDIT CARD USED.

#### INVOICE AND PUBLICATIONS TO BE SENT TO

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City State Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax and E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**DIRECT ORDERS TO** National Quality Forum  
ATTN: Publications Unit  
601 Thirteenth Street, NW, Suite 500 North, Washington, DC 20005

FAX Publications Unit – 202.783.3400

**ALL SALES FINAL**

THE NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM (NQF) is a private, nonprofit, open membership, public benefit corporation whose mission is to improve the American healthcare system so that it can be counted on to provide safe, timely, compassionate, and accountable care using the best current knowledge. Established in 1999, NQF is a unique public-private partnership having broad participation from all parts of the healthcare industry. As a voluntary consensus standards setting organization, NQF seeks to develop a common vision for healthcare quality improvement, create a foundation for standardized healthcare performance data collection and reporting, and identify a national strategy for healthcare quality improvement. NQF provides an equitable mechanism for addressing the disparate priorities of healthcare's many stakeholders.

**National Quality Forum**  
601 Thirteenth Street, NW, Suite 500 North  
Washington, DC 20005