

## Measure Development & Endorsement Agenda Project

Despite many ongoing government and private sector efforts to standardize quality measures, the quality of health and healthcare continues to be highly variable in the United States. To address this issue, there is a strong need for the development of quality and cost measures that will support performance-based payment and quality improvement around the most prevalent conditions and health risks that account for the greatest share of healthcare spending. Section 183 of the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 provides funding for the consensus-based entity to prioritize, endorse, and maintain valid quality performance measures. This legislation and NQF's subsequent contract with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) afforded NQF the opportunity to approach the evolution of its endorsed measures portfolio strategically by constructing a working Measure Development and Endorsement Agenda.

### Measure Prioritization Advisory Committee

The Measure Prioritization Advisory Committee is a multi-stakeholder group representing the interests of consumers, purchasers, healthcare providers and professionals, measure developers, government agencies, health plans, accreditation and certification bodies, and supplier and industry groups. The committee is chaired by two prominent national leaders in healthcare — George Isham, MD, MS, medical director and chief health officer of HealthPartners, and Ellen Stovall, senior health policy advisor, National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship.

### Prioritized List of Measure Gaps

In March 2010, NQF convened the Measure Prioritization Advisory Committee to tap the Committee's expertise and build on its prior work in prioritizing Medicare conditions and measure gaps. The Committee was charged with identifying priority conditions and developing a consolidated list of measure gaps for the construction of a Measure Development and Endorsement Agenda. The consolidated list of measure gap domains and sub-domains was constructed based on the Committee's prioritization of:

- Medicare conditions as well as Medicare measure gaps;
- child health conditions and risks as well as child health measure gaps; and
- population health measure gaps.

Top priority measure gap areas include: appropriateness/efficiency; shared decision-making; function, symptoms, and quality of life; prevention of adverse

events; and communication. Key issues were captured in the [final report](#) and provide context for interpreting the lists of priority conditions and measure gaps that emerged from the prioritization process. The voting results reflect the Committee's relative prioritization of these categories for future measure development. The gap areas on each of the prioritized lists were considered by the Committee to be critical areas for measure development. The final report can be accessed on the NQF website.

### Alignment Within the Quality Enterprise

This project is intended to more closely align performance measure development and endorsement and to serve as a bridge to measure applications. Performance measurement needs to evolve to ensure that the right measures are available for high-stakes uses and ultimately to measure progress in achieving the priorities and goals of the National Quality Strategy.

### Contact

Nalini K. Pande, National Quality Forum  
202-783-1300, npande@qualityforum.org

---

The National Quality Forum (NQF) operates under a three-part mission to improve the quality of American healthcare by building consensus on national priorities and goals for performance improvement and working in partnership to achieve them; endorsing national consensus standards for measuring and publicly reporting on performance; and promoting the attainment of national goals through education and outreach programs. NQF, a non-profit organization ([www.qualityforum.org](http://www.qualityforum.org)) with diverse stakeholders across the public and private health sectors, was established in 1999 and is based in Washington, DC.