Measuring Children’s Health Outcomes: Current Status and Future Efforts

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What is NQF?

A private, non profit voluntary consensus standards-setting organization.

- Public-private partnership
- Multi-stakeholder Board of Directors
- Membership: 400+ Member organizations – organized into 8 Stakeholder Councils

- Consumers
- Purchasers
- Professionals
- Providers
- Supplier/industry

- Health Plans
- Community/public health
- Quality measurement, research, improvement
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.
- Promoting the attainment of national goals through education and outreach programs.
NQF’s Roles

- Standard setting organization
  - Voluntary consensus standards:
    - Performance measures
    - Serious reportable events
    - Preferred practices
    - Frameworks
- Neutral convener
  - Measure Applications Partnership (MAP)
  - National Priorities Partnership (NPP)
NQF Measures Overview

- NQF endorses measures for public reporting and quality improvement
- NQF endorses measures using a standardized Consensus Development Process
- NQF-endorsed® measures are known as “voluntary consensus standards”
- NQF-endorsed standards are widely used for public reporting by CMS, states, health plans and insurers, and accrediting organizations
Why Measure?

- Measures drive improvement.
- Measures inform consumers and other stakeholders.
- Measures influence payment.
An NQF endorsement reflects rigorous scientific and evidence-based review, input from patients and their families, and the perspectives of stakeholders throughout the healthcare industry.

Standardized performance measures are tools to assess quality that can be used to compare providers, facilities, states, etc.
Quality Measurement in Evolution

Over the last ten years:

- Drive towards higher performance
- Shift toward composite measures
- Measure disparities in all that we do
- Increase the use of outcome measures
- Focus on population health
- Focus on patient-centered care
How do we know a measure is good?

- Is it important to measure and report?
- Is the evidence there: does the measure actually measure what it’s intended to measure? Has the measure been tested?
- How feasible is it to collect the data for the measure?
- Is the measure being used for public reporting or other accountability purposes? Can people understand it?
Outcomes: Child Health completed February 2011

15 outcome measures endorsed, including:
- Healthy term newborn
- Standardized mortality ratio for neonates undergoing non-cardiac surgery
- Number of school days children miss due to illness
- Children who have inadequate insurance coverage for optimal health
Child Health Quality Measures completed November 2011

- 44 measures endorsed, including:
  - Hearing screening prior to hospital discharge
  - Annual dental visit
  - Asthma emergency department visit
  - Developmental screening by 2 years of age
Future of Outcome Measures

- Expanded focus on disparities and population health
- Increasing number of patient-reported outcomes
- Electronic measures
- Additional outcome measures responding to stakeholder needs
Ways to get involved

- Check out QPS, the measures database
- Create an account on NQF’s site and follow projects
- Attend meetings, submit comments on measures
- Use performance measures in your work or your personal life
Questions?

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