



THE NATIONAL FORUM
FOR HEALTHCARE
QUALITY MEASUREMENT
AND REPORTING

THE NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM

*EMPLOYER & HEALTH PLAN INITIATIVES IN HEALTHCARE QUALITY
IMPROVEMENT & MEDICAL ERROR REDUCTION
AUDIOCONFERENCE
Sponsored by Health Affairs*

**Kenneth W. Kizer, M.D., M.P.H.
President and CEO
The National Quality Forum**

September 10, 2002



THE NATIONAL FORUM
FOR HEALTH CARE
QUALITY MEASUREMENT
AND REPORTING

WHAT IS THE NQF?

The National Quality Forum is a private, non-profit, voluntary consensus standards setting organization.

WHAT DOES THE NQF DO?

The NQF was established to improve the quality of U.S. health care by:

- standardizing health care performance measurement and reporting
- designing an overall strategy and framework for a National Healthcare Quality Measurement and Reporting System
- otherwise promoting, guiding and leading health care quality improvement

HISTORY

- **Presidential Advisory Commission on Consumer Protection and Quality in the Health Care Industry established (1996)**
- **Commission recommended the creation of a private sector entity (“Quality Forum”) that would bring healthcare stakeholder sectors together to standardize health care performance measures and standards (1998)**
- **Quality Forum Planning Committee convened by White House (1998)**
- **NQF incorporated in District of Columbia (1999)**
- **NQF operational (2000)**

THE NQF-QI NEXUS

- Quality improvement requires a systematic approach
- A systematic approach requires a coherent strategy, goals, performance measurement and reporting
- Performance measures must be standardized, reliable and meaningful
- Structure, process, goals and rewards must be aligned; accountability has to be built in to systems and processes

UNIQUE FEATURES

- Broad and open membership (>150 organizations as of Sept 2002)
- Public and private sector representation on governing board (including accreditors and IOM); equitable status of stakeholder sectors
- Attention to overall strategy for measuring and reporting healthcare quality, including establishing national goals
- Focus is on the entire continuum of healthcare
- Formal consensus process (“voluntary consensus standards”)

National Technology and Transfer Advancement of Act of 1995 (NTTAA)

- Defines the 5 key attributes of a “voluntary consensus standards body” (i.e., openness, balance of interest, due process, consensus, and an appeals process)
- Obligates federal government to adopt voluntary consensus standards (when the government is adopting standards)
- Encourages federal government to participate in setting voluntary consensus standards

SELECTED PROJECTS

- Hospital Care Performance Measures
- Diabetes Management Performance Measures
- Safe Practices for Better Healthcare
- Serious Reportable Adverse Events
- Nursing Home Performance Measures

SELECTED PROJECTS

- Cancer Care Performance Measures
- Minority Healthcare Quality Measures
- National Goals for QI
- National IT Summit
- Standardizing Credentialing of ILPs

RELATIONSHIP OF PAYERS/PURCHASERS TO NQF

- Primary funder of NQF projects/contracts has been purchasers of healthcare
- Implementation of NQF 'products' will be primarily through purchasers:
 - ✓ Contracts/COP
 - ✓ Information for consumers
 - ✓ Information for improvement
 - ✓ Performance-based reimbursement