

STAND FOR QUALITY

in Health Care

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Broad Coalition Offers Plan to Improve Health Care Quality and Affordability

*Recommendations call for better measurement and transparency as foundation for
improvement and reform*

Washington, DC – Stand for Quality, a diverse coalition of more than 165 organizations from across the health care spectrum, today announced a framework to improve the quality and affordability of health care for all patients through a public-private partnership described in six key recommendations.

The six recommendations are:

1. Set national priorities and provide coordination for quality improvement;
2. Endorse and maintain nationally standardized measures;
3. Develop measures to fill gaps in priority areas;
4. Ensure that providers and other stakeholders have a role in developing policies on use of measures;
5. Collect, analyze, and make performance information available and actionable;
6. Support a sustainable infrastructure for quality improvement.

Stand for Quality's recommendations are the product of a partnership among patient and consumer groups; employers and public purchasers; representatives of physicians, nurses and other clinicians; health plans; hospitals; and more. The multistakeholder group came together with the shared belief that improvements in access, quality, and affordability are inextricably linked.

"The wide array of organizations endorsing Stand for Quality's recommendations illustrate the essential role quality improvement must play in health care reform," said Gerald Shea, Assistant to the President for Governmental affairs at the AFL-CIO. "Stand for Quality provides structure around a quality enterprise that has grown organically and makes it accountable in a new system."

"Consumers and patients want affordable, high quality care that is safe, efficient, and responsive to their needs," said John Rother, Executive Vice President of Policy and Strategy for AARP. "Health care reform must include ways to better assess quality, as well as how to translate results into useful information that will help practitioners, patients, and policymakers make informed decisions. These recommendations recognize the continuum of measuring and improving quality and affordability."

The six recommendations representing a path to safe, efficient, patient-centered health care are outlined in Stand for Quality's *Building a Foundation for High Quality, Affordable Health Care: Linking Performance Measurement to Health Reform*. The recommendations build on existing improvement efforts and aim to harness the energies of the public and private

sectors to strengthen health care quality – ensuring reform not only expands coverage, but improves the care patients receive.

“These recommendations are anchored in the reality that quality is about what happens between a clinician and a patient,” said John Tooker, Chief Executive Officer of the American College of Physicians. “We support this effort because it is critical to giving doctors the tools they want and need to improve care.”

To support and catalyze these efforts, Stand for Quality identifies distinct roles for the public and private sectors to work in partnership to measure quality and use those results to drive continuous improvement. Measurement and reporting of health care services are crucial to achieving the essential goals of reform – quality, affordability, and access for all.

Stand for Quality recognizes that standardized measures and public reporting create a strong foundation to share what works and inform care delivery that is patient-centered, safe, and effective. “Our recommendations build on the successes of work already underway to create an integrated national infrastructure that will put into the hands of providers of care, purchasers of care, and consumers of care information to inform their decisions,” said Richard Umbdenstock, President and Chief Executive Officer of the American Hospital Association.

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Stand for Quality Steering Committee Members include: Janet Corrigan, President and Chief Executive Officer, National Quality Forum; Karen Ignagni, President and Chief Executive Officer, America's Health Insurance Plans; Charles N. Kahn III, President, Federation of American Hospitals; Peter V. Lee, Executive Director for National Health Policy, Pacific Business Group on Health; Mark B. McClellan, Director, Engelberg Center for Health Care Reform at the Brookings Institution and Leonard D. Schaeffer Chair in Health Policy Studies; Debra L. Ness, President of the National Partnership for Women & Families; Nancy H. Nielsen, President, American Medical Association; Kenneth W. Porter, Senior Vice President, American Benefits Council; William L. Roper, Dean, UNC School of Medicine, Vice Chancellor for Medical Affairs and CEO, UNC Healthcare System; John C. Rother, Executive Vice President, Policy and Strategy, AARP; Gerald M. Shea, Assistant to the President for Governmental Affairs, AFL-CIO; Linda J. Stierle, Chief Executive Officer, American Nurses Association; John Tooker, Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer of the American College of Physicians; Richard J. Umbdenstock, President and Chief Executive Officer, American Hospital Association; Anthony Wisniewski, Executive Director, Health Care Policy, U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

The full list of the more than 165 supporting organizations of Stand for Quality is attached, and also is available at : www.standforquality.org.

Stand for Quality Supporting Organizations

The undersigned organizations are heartened by the prospects of substantial health care reform and believe that reform should build on the momentum that has been generated by collaborative activities already underway to promote improvement in health care quality and affordability. By acting on the recommendations in *Building a Foundation for High Quality, Affordable Health Care: Linking Performance Measurement to Health Reform* (March 2009) we believe we can harness the energies of a wide range of groups seeking to improve care and lower costs, and, ultimately, achieve our goal of making high quality, affordable health care available to all.

These recommendations are the product of a partnership among patient and consumer groups, employers and public purchasers, representatives of physicians, nurses and other clinicians, health plans, hospitals, and more. The composition of this partnership reflects the multistakeholder collaboration that we believe should be the locus of the measurement, reporting and improvement activities described in this document. Together we call on the new administration and Congress to build on the collaborative activities already underway. By expanding the public investment in the performance measurement, reporting and improvement enterprise we can harness the energies of these groups that seek to improve care and lower costs, and, ultimately, achieve our goal of making high quality, affordable health care available to all.

National Organizations

- AARP
- AFL-CIO
- Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy
- Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses
- Acumentra Health
- Aetna
- Alliance for Pediatric Quality
- America's Health Insurance Plans
- American Academy of Family Physicians
- American Academy of Neurology
- American Academy of Nursing
- American Academy of Nurse Practitioners
- American Academy of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery
- American Association of Birth Centers
- American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation
- American Association of Colleges of Nursing
- American Benefits Council
- American Board of Medical Specialties
- American College of Cardiology
- American College of Nurse-Midwives
- American College of Physicians
- American College of Radiology
- American College of Surgeons
- American Geriatrics Society
- American Health Information Management Association
- American Health Quality Association
- American Heart Association
- American Hospital Association

- American Hospice Foundation
- American Medical Association
- American Nurses Association
- American Optometric Association
- American Osteopathic Association
- American Pharmacists Association
- American Physical Therapy Association
- American Podiatric Medical Association
- American Psychological Association
- Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology
- American Society of Health-System Pharmacists
- American Urological Association
- Association of American Medical Colleges
- Association of PeriOperative Registered Nurses
- Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
- Blue Cross Blue Shield Association
- Bridges To Excellence
- Calculated Risk, Inc.
- CareVariance LLC
- Catholic Health Initiatives
- CECity.com, Inc.
- Center for Health Systems Research & Analysis
- Child Health Corporation of America
- Childbirth Connection
- Coalition for Improving Maternity Services
- Comprehensive Pharmacy Services
- Consumers' CHECKBOOK/Center for the Study of Services
- Consumers Coalition for Quality Health Care
- Consumers Union
- Council of Medical Specialty Societies
- Discern, LLC
- Epstein Becker & Green, P.C.
- Federation of American Hospitals
- HealthPartners
- Healthcare Leadership Council
- Heart Rhythm Society
- Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association
- Hospital for Special Surgery
- Humana
- IPRO
- Lumetra
- MAXIMUS Federal Services, Inc.
- Medco Health Solutions
- MetaStar, Inc.
- National Association for Healthcare Quality
- National Association of Children's Hospitals and Related Institutions
- National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
- National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems
- National Business Coalition on Health
- National Business Group on Health
- National Committee for Quality Assurance
- National Community Pharmacists Association
- National Consortium of Breast Centers
- National Consumers League
- National Institute for Quality Improvement and Education
- National Partnership for Women & Families
- National Quality Forum
- Network for Regional Healthcare Improvement
- Next Wave
- Outcomes Pharmaceutical Health Care
- Pacific Business Group on Health
- Pharmacy Quality Alliance, Inc.
- Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement convened by the AMA
- Premier Inc.
- QSource
- Qualis Health

- Quality Partners of Rhode Island
- Quidel Corporation
- Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
- Shaller Consulting Group
- Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions
- Society for the Advancement of Blood Management
- Society for Vascular Surgery
- Society of Hospital Medicine
- Society of Thoracic Surgeons
- The Catholic Health Association of the United States
- The Joint Commission
- Thomson Reuters
- UnitedHealth Group
- Universal American Corp.
- U.S. Chamber of Commerce
- WellPoint, Inc.

Local/State/Regional Organizations

- Alabama Quality Assurance Foundation (AQAF)
- Atlantic Health
- Baylor Health Care System
- Betsy Lehman Center for Patient Safety and Medical Error Reduction
- BJC HealthCare
- Buyers Health Care Action Group
- Colorado Foundation for Medical Care
- Employer Health Care Alliance (Ohio - Kentucky - Indiana)
- Employers Coalition on Health (Northern Illinois)
- Exeter Health Resources (New Hampshire)
- FMQAI (Florida)
- Greater Detroit Area Health Council, Inc.
- Hanover Area Health Care Alliance
- Health Action Council Ohio
- Health Improvement Collaborative of Greater Cincinnati
- Health Policy Corporation of Iowa
- Health Services Advisory Group (HSAG) of Arizona
- Health Services Advisory Group (HSAG) of California
- HealthCare 21 Business Coalition (Tennessee)
- HealthInsight (Utah and Nevada)
- Information & Quality Healthcare (Mississippi)
- Integrated Healthcare Association
- Iowa Foundation for Medical Care
- Iowa Health Buyers Alliance
- Kansas Foundation for Medical Care, Inc.
- Louisiana Health Care Quality Forum
- Louisiana Health Care Review
- Massachusetts Department of Public Health
- Massachusetts Health Quality Partners
- Michigan Peer Review Organization
- Midwestern University
- Minnesota Community Measurement
- New Jersey Hospital Association
- New York Business Group on Health
- Niagara Health Quality Coalition
- North Dakota Health Care Review, Inc.
- North Shore-LIJ Health System

- OdeonData, LLC
- Oklahoma Foundation for Medical Quality
- Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative
- Primaris (Missouri)
- Proctor Hospital
- Puget Sound Health Alliance
- Quality Quest for Health of Illinois
- South Carolina Business Coalition on Health
- Stoeckle Center for Primary Care Innovation
- Sutter Children's Center
- The Carolinas Center for Medical Excellence
- The Children's Hospital (Denver)
- The HOPE of Wisconsin
- University of Arizona
- Virgin Islands Medical Institute, Inc.
- WellSpan Health
- West Virginia Medical Institute & Quality Insights
- Wisconsin Collaborative for Healthcare Quality
- Wisconsin Medical Society